THE

Board of Trade Journal.

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The Offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade are at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

The registered telegraphic address of the Branch is "Advantage, London."

A statement of the objects and work of the Commercial Intelligence Branch will be found on p. 628.

Attention is directed to the Sample Room, where the following samples are at present on view, among other exhibits:—

Samples.	Reference in "Board of Trade Journal."	
	Date.	Page.
German woollen cloths sold in Alexandria	8th March, 1906	476
Evaporated bananas from the Seychelles Islands	15th Feb., 1906	333
Textiles sold in Zanzibar	25th Jan., 1906	175
" " Beira	" 1906	175
Leather, coffee and asphalt from the North-Western District of Argentina ...	18th Jan., 1906	133
Pyrophyllite and shale from Newfoundland	11th Jan., 1906	81
Iron ore from various places alluded to in "Iron Ore Deposits in Foreign Countries" issued by the Board of Trade	15th June, 1905	521

The following Special Trade Enquiry Offices are also at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.:—

India.	Cape of Good Hope.
Dominion of Canada.	Transvaal and Orange River Colony.
Queensland.	

Statements of the objects and work of the Special Trade Enquiry Offices will be found on p. 629.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

BRITISH INDIA.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: INDIA OFFICE.

Railway Material.

The Secretary of State for India in Council is prepared to receive tenders from such persons as may be willing to supply—

1. Springs, spiral, &c.
2. Springs, laminated.
3. Wheels and axles for railway wagons.
4. Wrought-iron buffers for wagons.
5. Rails and fishplates.

The conditions of contract may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., or may be obtained on application to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W. Tenders are to be delivered at the latter office by 2 p.m. on Tuesday, the 3rd April, after which time no tender will be received.

Railway Stores.

The Directors of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared to receive tenders for the supply of the following stores, viz.:—Expanded brass, mild steel firehole shield plates, lamps and lamp fittings, reversible cast steel crossings, water cranes, bolts, nuts, rivets, coach screws, &c.; lamp glasses, &c.; linoleum floor cloth, Portland cement, fencing materials. Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C., on payment of the fee for the Specification, which payment will not be returned. Tenders must be delivered in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Secretary, marked "Tender for Expanded Brass," or as the case may be, not later than 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 5th April, 1906. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

CANADA.

Enquiries relating to Canadian Trade.

The following were among the recent enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the **Canadian Government Offices, 17, Victoria Street, London, S.W.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained:—

Home Enquiries.—A Liverpool firm are desirous of appointing a good agent or broker in Montreal for the sale of hemp, canary, millet and other seeds.

A Liverpool firm desire to get into communication with Canadian houses wishing to place any of the following goods in the United Kingdom: ores, matte, lead, tallow, grease, flour, and corn.

Openings for British Trade.

CANADA—*continued.*

Canadian Enquiry.—A company in the Province of Quebec producing graphite of high grade and suitable for all purposes, wish to get into communication with English buyers.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria Street, S.W.

The following trade enquiries have been received at the **Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.**, whence further information regarding them may be obtained :—

Home Enquiries.—A firm manufacturing anti-corrosive compositions, paints, varnishes, oils, greases, pitch and tar ask to be placed in communication with Canadian buyers of these goods.

A company manufacturing wire ropes would like to get a share of Canadian trade.

A London firm desire to purchase quantities of dowels and invite quotations from Canadian manufacturers in a position to fill orders.

A company growing seeds of various kinds wish to get into communication with seed importers in Western Canada.

Note.—For further information regarding any of the above, application should be made to the Canadian Government City Trade Branch, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

CEYLON.

Cast Steel, Hardware, Machinery, Apparel, Cottons, &c., &c.

Attention is called to the article on p. 592, referring to the progress made by foreign countries in the import trade of Ceylon as regards cast steel, hardware, machinery, made-up apparel, and cotton piece goods ; also in fancy articles, lamps, haberdashery, dyed goods, musical instruments, toilet soap, &c.

EGYPT.

Drugs, &c.; Lathes.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from Lieut.-Col. Western, R.E., C.M.G., London Agent for the Egyptian War Office, a notification to the effect that tenders will be received up to the 1st May for the supply of drugs and materials to the Medical Corps of the Egyptian Army for the year ending 31st December, 1907 ; also tenders will be received up to the 14th April for the supply of lathes to the Egyptian War Department.

Copies of the specifications may be obtained from Lieut.-Col. Western's Offices, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W.

Openings for British Trade.

EGYPT—*continued.*

Refuse Destructor.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) states that the Municipality of Alexandria are about to erect an installation for the destruction of refuse. It is proposed to establish either one destructor, capable of burning 200 tons of refuse per day, or two destructors with a capacity of from 80 to 120 tons each. No public call for tenders will be made; persons interested should therefore communicate with the Municipality of Alexandria, enclosing tenders and plans.

SWEDEN.

Rolled Steel Joists.

H.M. Consul at Stockholm (Mr. A. S. MacGregor) reports that tenders are invited for the supply, to the Swedish State Railways, of rolled steel joists ("Flusseisen" quality) of two kinds, I and ⊔, for bridge-building and for waggons. Sealed tenders, marked respectively "Anbud a balkar for brobyggnader" and "Anbud a balkar for vagntillverkning," should be addressed to "Kungl. Jernvagsstyrelsens Registrator, Stockholm," where they will be received up to noon on the 17th April next.

Further particulars (in Swedish), together with notices regarding the manufacture, testing and delivery of the joists, forwarded by H.M. Consul, may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

NORWAY.

Coal and Patent Fuel.

A cablegram has been received from the Acting British Consul-General at Christiania (Mr. E. F. Gray), notifying that tenders are invited by the Norwegian Main Railway for the supply of 1,000 tons of crown patent fuel, 1,000 to 2,000 tons of best large Shireoaks or Kiveton Park coal, and 4,000 to 5,000 tons of best Lambton coals. Tenders must be lodged in Christiania by noon on the 6th April. Particulars coming by post will be available at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Telegraph Materials.

The Acting British Consul-General has also forwarded a notification to the effect that tenders will be received in Christiania, not later than 3 p.m. on the 6th April next, by the Norwegian State Railway authorities for the supply of the following telegraph materials:—

40,000 kilos of galvanised iron wire of 4 mm. diameter.
6,000 „ „ „ 3 mm. „
4,100 large insulators.
8,400 small „
450 kilos of hackled hemp ("heglet hamp").

Openings for British Trade.

The Acting Consul-General encloses copies (in Norwegian) of specifications, conditions, drawings (2), &., which may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C. Copies of these documents may be obtained at a cost of fifty ore (about 7*d.*) per drawing required, from "Statsbanernes Hovedkasserer, No. 1, Jernbanetorvet, Christiania."

NOTE.—Apart from the usual Customs duties, a preference of from 10 to 15 per cent. is given to Norwegian manufacturers. In all cases of Norwegian Government contracts it is obligatory that a resident agent should act for tenderers not residing in Norway, and be responsible to the Government, but it is not necessary for the agent to be a Norwegian firm.

DENMARK.

Harbour Works.

The "Berlingske Tidende" of 22nd March contains notices inviting tenders for harbour works, &c., at the following towns:—

1. Rönne.—Rebuilding the southern mole of Rönne Harbour and carrying out certain dredging works. Tenders must be sent in to the office of the Burgomaster (Rönne Borgmesterkontor) by midday on 4th April. Drawings and conditions may be seen on application to the Rönne Harbour Office (Rönne Havnekontor), or obtained on payment of 50 kroner (2*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*), which is refunded if they are returned undamaged.

2. Nörre Sundby.—Harbour works. Tenders must be sent in to the Chamberlain's Office (Kaemnerkontor) Nörre Sundby by 15th April. Drawings and conditions may be obtained from the office named or from Ingeniör J. Andersen, Frederiksberg Allee, 3 die Sal, Copenhagen, on payment of 20 kroner (1*l.* 2*s.*), which is refunded if they are returned at the same time as tenders are sent in.

3. Randers.—Regularising and deepening the channel to Randers to a depth of 18 feet with about 210,000 cubic fathoms of earth works and the necessary damming works. Tenders must be sent in to the office of the Burgomaster (Borgmesterkontor), Randers, by 6 p.m. on 2nd May. Conditions may be obtained from the office of the Harbour Engineer (Havneingeniörens Kontor), Randers, where plans may be inspected. Tenders will be opened at 10 a.m. on 3rd May; persons tendering must be present.

NETHERLANDS.

Coal.

H.M. Consul at Rotterdam (Mr. H. Turing) forwards the following particulars of contracts for coal in the Netherlands:—

1. On the 30th March, the Superintendent of the Gasworks at Dordrecht will receive tenders for the supply

and delivery of about 7,000 tons of gas coal. Particulars of the contract are obtainable at the offices of the gasworks.

2. On the 5th April next, the Director of Naval Establishments at Hellevoetsluis will receive tenders for the delivery of about 4,000 tons of English coal (East Coast). The coal must be from one of the following mines, viz.:—South Yorkshire, Edmunds or Mitchell; Sunderland Lambton West Hartley; Davison's West Hartley; Hastings' Hartley; Broomhill West Hartley; Wombwell Main; Wilson's Glencraig, Whitehall. The coal must not contain more than 15 per cent. of small coal. It is to be delivered in quantities of from 600 to 800 tons during 1906 and 1907.

BELGIUM.

Briquettes.

H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp (Sir E. C. Hertslet) reports that the municipal authorities of that city invite tenders for the supply, in one lot, of 6,000 tons of briquettes. A deposit of 5,000 francs (200*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

The specification ("Cahier des Charges, No. 1,128") relating to the contract may be obtained at the Hôtel de Ville, Antwerp.

All tenders should be sent in sealed registered envelopes, addressed to the "Collége des Bourgmestre et Echevins de la ville d'Anvers," and should reach there not later than the 9th April.

A copy of the specification may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

Railway Plant.

The "Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels" contains a notice issued by the "Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer Vicinaux," inviting tenders, which will be opened on the 18th April, for the construction of the Vollezeele to Ninove section of the local railway from Hal to Ninove. The estimated cost of the work is 90,000 francs (3,600*l.*), and a deposit of 9,000 francs (360*l.*) is required to qualify any tender.

Tenders, in sealed envelopes, should be addressed to the General Manager of the Company, at 14, Rue de la Science, Brussels, where specifications, plans, &c., may be inspected. A copy of the specifications may be obtained on payment of 1 franc from M. Dartevelle, rue de Turquie, No. 18, Saint Gilles, Brussels.

The "Moniteur" also notifies that tenders are invited up to the 12th May, at the Bourse, Brussels, for the construction of the section from S. Cécile to the French frontier, of the railway from Bertrix to the frontier *viâ* Muno. Estimated cost, 3,500,000 fr. (140,000*l.*); deposit, 190,000 fr. (7,600*l.*) Specifications ("cahier des charges," special No. 27) may be obtained at the Bourse, price 4 fr. 70 cts.

Openings for British Trade.

PORTUGAL.

Electric Lighting Plant.

The "Diario do Governo" of the 21st March, contains a Royal Decree, approving a contract entered into between the municipal authorities of Angra do Heroismo and Señor Vital Betencourt Vasconcellos e Lemos, for the lighting of that town by means of electricity.

Railway Plant.

The same issue of the "Diario" contains a report as to the proposed railways in the island of S. Thomé. Three lines are proposed of a total length of 40 kilometres and of a total estimated cost of 680,000 milreis.

SPAIN.

Electric Tramway Plant.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 23rd March contains copy of an Order authorising the Granada Electric Tramways Company to substitute electric, for animal, traction on the tramway between the Plaza Nueva and the Alhambra, Granada.

ITALY.

Iron, Steel and Brass.

H.M. Consul at Milan (Mr. J. H. Towsey) forwards copies of three notices issued by the Italian (Royal) Arms Factory at Brescia inviting tenders for the supply of (1) iron in rods, &c., to the estimated value of 13,008 lire (about 520*l.*); (2) steel for bayonets and parts of swords, to the estimated value of 3,710 lire (about 148*l.*); and (3) brass in wire and sheets, to the estimated value of 2,475 lire (about 99*l.*). Tenders for (1) and (2) will be received up to the 7th April, and for (3) to the 6th April. They should be addressed to "Direzione d'Artiglieria della Fabrica d'Armi in Brescia, Italy."

H.M. Consul adds that, although but little time is given for sending in tenders for the said contracts, it may interest British iron and steel manufacturers to know that this factory is open to receive tenders from firms other than Italian.

Canadian Produce.

H.M. Consul at Milan also reports an opening in his district for Canadian fruit (in tins), fish, potatoes, hides and timber.

Railway Material.

The "Bulletin" of the French Chamber of Commerce at Milan reports that the Director-General of Railways has prepared a series of measures with a view to furthering the development by the Government of the Italian railways. (See also "Board of Trade Journal" of 1st February, p. 206).

Openings for British Trade.

ITALY—*continued.*

The measures prepared are varied in character. Some aim at obtaining, in a quick and easy manner, expropriations for urgent extensions, improvements or repairs on railway stations or lines; others aim at safeguarding more effectively the interests of the Treasury, in respect to the supplying of rolling stock, and obtaining supplies more rapidly. If suitable conditions for price and delivery cannot be obtained in national competition, the Director-General of Railways may institute an international competition or private negotiation with foreign houses. Italian firms will also be invited to these international competitions, and given the preference when their offers do not exceed foreign offers after 5 per cent. has been added to the latter, together with Customs expenses and cost of transport to the place of delivery. This 5 per cent. may be increased to 8 per cent., according to the condition of the market, urgency of supply, and nature of the work.

It is stated that on this basis tenders will shortly be invited for railway material to the value of 8,000,000*l.*

Electric Tramway and Railway Plant.

The "Bulletin" also reports that a project for an electric tramway between Leghorn, Pisa, and S. Giuliano has been presented to the authorities concerned, by Commander Audisio, of Florence, in order to obtain the concession and the necessary financial aid; and further that Messrs. Bernadelli, Capretti, and Graziotti have put forward a request for the construction of an electric railway from Brescia by Nava to the Austrian frontier, power being obtained from the Caffaro river. At the same time the Rezzato-Vobarno-Caffaro Railway Co, have been voted a grant for the extension of their line.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Hydro-electric Plant.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) states that the Municipality of Fiume are about to erect a hydro-electric generating station at a cost of 2,200,000 crowns (about 92,000*l.*).

GREECE.

Iron Girders.

According to a report by the Belgian Legation in Athens there is at present great activity in the building industry in Greece, and, in consequence, a keen demand for iron girders. The trade statistics of Greece group these articles with iron pipes. The value of the total imports of these two amounted to 53,000*l.* in 1903, and 45,000*l.* in 1904.

In 1903 Germany, the United Kingdom, and Belgium supplied nearly all the girders used; the first-named country sending about

Openings for British Trade.

50 per cent. of the total import, and the other two 25 per cent. each. One point to which the importers attach great importance is quick delivery of goods. They are also quick to detect any traces of rust in the girders, and this point is borne in mind by German firms, who are supposed to make use of a preparation which preserves the girders from rust; hence the demand for German girders in the country.

ROUMANIA.

Petroleum Concessions.

On p. 619 will be found a notice of the Ordinance, published in Bucharest on the 13th March, regulating petroleum concessions on State lands.

Electric Lighting Plant.

The "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) states that tenders will be opened on 25th April/8th May at the offices of the Municipality, Turnu-Severin, for a concession to supply that town with electric light. Plans, specifications, &c., may be inspected at the above-mentioned offices.

TURKEY.

Irish Produce and Manufactures.

In his report for the year 1905 on the trade of Constantinople, H.M. Consul there (Mr. A. T. Waugh) states as regards Irish goods, that there is a certain sale for drills and ducks; table linen and napkins; sheeting, huckabacks, and towelling; handkerchiefs; dress linens; and linings. The demand for Irish linens, he says, has been on the decline in recent years owing, in a great measure, to the increasing demand for foreign cottons. The sheetings which have the greatest sale are Scotch and especially Belgian. The most saleable drills and ducks are Scotch and Barnsley makes.

In groceries and provisions, &c., there is a small and constant demand for hams, bacon, butter, whisky, mineral waters and stout from Ireland. Irish biscuits, condensed milk, cured fish and eggs seem to find no market in Constantinople. (*Foreign Office, Annual Series*, 3,533.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Optical Glass and Rough Lenses.

An enquiry has been received at the British Consulate, Chicago, for the names and addresses of British manufacturers of optical glass and rough lenses. Communications from British firms should be addressed to H.M. Consul, British Consulate, Chicago.

Openings for British Trade.

MEXICO.

Railway Plant.

The "Diario Oficial" of the 27th February publishes a copy of a contract entered into between the Mexican Government and a representative of the "San Ildefonso Fábrica de Tejidos de lana S.A.," which holds a concession for a railway line from Ferrocarril de Tlahnepantla á México, for the construction of a branch railway line of three feet gauge from Tenayuca Station to Cuantepec.

Hydro-electric Plant.

The "Diario" of the 7th March publishes a notice of an application by Señor Claudio Simon y Segui, for a concession to utilise for motive power the water of the River Frío to the extent of one thousand litres per second.

FORTHCOMING EXHIBITION.

CEYLON.

International Rubber Exhibition at Peradeniya.

The Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade have received from the Principal Collector of Customs at Colombo (Mr. W. H. Jackson), a communication to the effect that a rubber exhibition is to be held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya, on the 13th, 14th and 15th September. It will include everything connected with rubber cultivation, tapping, preparation and manufacture. Entries from Europe should be sent to Mr. E. R. Denham, Colombo, by the 31st July.

BRITISH TRADE ABROAD.

Ceylon.—The report on Ceylon for the year 1904, which has lately been issued by the Colonial Office, states that the United Kingdom held her own with, or improved her position as regards foreign countries in exports to Ceylon of refined sugar, biscuits, iron, angle, and Swedish bar, tinware, cement, and tea chests, which were among the articles given in 1903 as instances of the development of foreign trade in that Colony.

Tables are given in the report containing the figures for the United Kingdom and foreign countries in regard to the articles enumerated, and also in regard to articles in which foreign countries improved their position relatively to the United Kingdom.

The articles enumerated above are the only important imports in which the competition of the foreigner does not show a further advance. The most marked progress made by the foreigner in Ceylon is in imports of cast steel, hardware, machinery, made-up apparel, and cotton piece goods, of which the total value of imports from foreign countries amounted in 1893 to Rs. 7,000, and in 1904 to Rs. 1,273,000.

The report says that it is not possible to analyse the causes at

work which tend to increase foreign trade, but attention may be called to the fact that the increase in imports by Ceylon of foreign goods is largely in cheap articles, which the German, Belgian, and French manufacturers put on the market in a form which will appeal to the native buyer. Germany exported to Ceylon Rs. 84,000 worth of biscuits, which command a sale almost entirely on account of the boxes in which they are packed; these are of a size suitable for a betel box, or a native woman's work box, and ornamented with attractive, if gaudy designs. Germany exports to Ceylon more beads, images and statues, handkerchiefs, scarves, shawls, pewterware, and zincware than the United Kingdom. The imports in 1904 of fancy articles, lamps, haberdashery, made-up apparel, dyed goods, musical instruments, toilet soap, and toys from Germany show a very large increase on the values imported in 1903. It appears, adds the report, that it is chiefly in the smaller articles, the sale of which is pushed by the commercial traveller, that the foreigner is gaining the market.

Summing up the general condition of the colony, the openings for capital, and the future prospects of trade, the report says:—

"With the present good returns on cocoanut land, the generally satisfactory condition of the tea industry, and the large development in rubber cultivation which may be confidently expected, the condition of the Colony may be taken to be as satisfactory as its revenue would indicate. The openings for capital are numerous." (*Colonial Reports, Annual, No.* 481.)

Marseilles.—H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles (Mr. M. C. Gurney, M.V.O.), in his report for 1905, recently issued by the Foreign Office, writes:—

"Letters of enquiry from British merchants and manufacturers continue to be sent to this office direct, instead of through the more convenient channel of the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade. It is preferable that applications should in the first instance be made to that department, much information as to local trade having been supplied to it, and an answer in many cases could be rapidly obtained. Any special enquiry put in the shape of a definite set of questions will be answered with as little delay as possible." (*Foreign Office, Annual Series,* 3,534.)

Constantinople.—The following extracts from the report of H.M. Consul at Constantinople (Mr. A. T. Waugh) for the year 1905 (*Foreign Office, Annual Series,* 3,533), contain suggestions to British traders which supplement those given on p. 549 of last week's issue of the "Board of Trade Journal."

Mr. Waugh states his Consulate receives a good many applications for help in collecting bad debts, and adds that it is possible in some cases to help effectively. There are various ways in which unofficial persuasion or pressure can be brought to bear upon debtors; and,

British Trade Abroad.

whenever possible, this is done. If this fails, a lawyer is recommended who can take legal proceedings; and by treaty the Consulate has the official right to watch lawsuits undertaken by British subjects before the Turkish courts. British firms who require assistance in such matters should write direct to the Consulate, giving all necessary details, and mentioning the agent in Constantinople through whom the business was done. It must be remarked, adds Mr. Waugh, that in many cases these bad debts arise out of business done through agents whom the Consulate would not have recommended had enquiries been made about them. To do business in Constantinople the first essential is a competent and reliable agent.

Frequent enquiries as to whether the Consulate gives information as to credit are received and answered. In Mr. Waugh's opinion it is most desirable that British firms should avail themselves freely of this means of protecting themselves against those who are known in Constantinople as the "Black Band."

With regard to the small direct representation of British manufacturers, Mr. Waugh states that in the first four weeks of this year one of the leading British merchants in Constantinople received visits from 15 travellers from Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Frankfort, Hamburg, and Zurich, but not one from the United Kingdom. The Frankfort house sells principally British goods. Surely, says Mr. Waugh, these might be sold direct from the United Kingdom. A Berlin tie house does nearly all the business in Pera. British trade in waterproofs is threatened from Hamburg and Berlin, which send travellers constantly, and yet British waterproofs have a great reputation among the Turks. In other branches of trade Mr. Waugh is informed that British iron tubes cannot be sold in Constantinople because they are too dear, British sole leather because the manufacturers will not take the trouble to suit the market, goloshes for the same reason, and so on. Mr. Waugh goes on to say:—

"These constant visits of foreign travellers are creating a taste for foreign fancy goods, hosiery, &c., which threatens to diminish the demand for British articles. This can only be remedied by our following the foreign methods. If we want to sell our goods in Turkey we must take the same trouble to secure our customers as we do in the United Kingdom. Where competition is so keen those wares find a sale which can be bought with the least trouble to the buyer.

"A step in the right direction has been taken in the last few years by the establishment of several British firms of commission agents in Constantinople. We require more commission agents; and we require, above all, that manufacturers at home should give their business to these agents, and should take the necessary trouble to work up their sales.

"If any British firm is sufficiently interested to write and ask particulars of what can be done here in any special line, I shall use my best endeavours to procure replies to any questions put."

ENCOURAGEMENT OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES IN BRITISH INDIA.

A resolution has been issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry, Calcutta, and published in the Indian press, with reference to the system under which Indian and English made stores are purchased for the use of Government Departments in India. Various changes have been made in recent years with the object of facilitating supply, and of promoting the encouragement of Indian industries. The Government of India have decided that the matter should now be referred for examination to a Committee.

The Committee will ascertain definitely the procedure which in practice is adopted at present for the purchase of stores. They will report on the defects in that procedure, more especially with reference to the question of facilitating purchases from, and of affording greater encouragement to local industries, and they will formulate a set of rules for general adoption designed with the object of removing defects in the existing system. The Committee will also enquire into the ability of firms to undertake a much larger volume of business than is at present entrusted to them; the Committee will also report as to the comparative prices of locally manufactured and of foreign articles; and will enquire whether imported articles locally purchased have in general given satisfaction as regards quality.

The Committee will also report respecting the advisability of prescribing strict rules, requiring Government officers to purchase locally manufactured articles in all cases where such articles are available, and of calling upon them for explanations in cases where these rules are transgressed; and further upon the possibility of devising a system under which all Departments of Government will be informed of the adoption of a local, in place of an imported, product in any part of India.

IMPORT TRADE OF CAPE COLONY.

The following statement showing the value of the principal and other articles of merchandise imported into Cape Colony during the six months ended the 31st December, 1905, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, is compiled from statistics received from the South African Customs Statistical Bureau. It is important to note that prior to 1st July, 1905, 5 per cent. was added to the original cost (in countries of origin)

Import Trade of Cape Colony.

to cover charges for insurance, freight, &c. The increases for the six months ended 31st December last are therefore much greater than actually appear in the table:—

Principal Articles.	July to December.	
	1904.	1905.
	£	£
Raw Materials ... ... Total	406,000	593,000
Including—		
Coal and coke	94,000	114,000
Metals, unmanufactured or partly manufactured	53,000	53,000
Oil, mineral or paraffin	80,000	114,000
Wood, unmanufactured	92,000	147,000
Articles of Food and Drink... ... ... Total	2,619,000	2,598,000
Including—		
Butter, margarine, &c.	118,000	102,000
Coffee, raw	174,000	201,000
Corn, grain and flour...	619,000	747,000
Meats of all kinds	355,000	342,000
Milk or cream condensed	144,000	107,000
Spirits (potable)	115,000	98,000
Sugar and sugar products	326,000	321,000
Tea	78,000	72,000
Manufactured Articles ... ... Total	5,374,000	5,384,000
Including—		
Drugs and chemicals	112,000	120,000
Boots and shoes	374,000	396,000
Hardware and cutlery	421,000	328,000
Iron manufactures (other than machinery) ...	259,000	253,000
Machinery†	514,000	487,000
Paper manufactures and stationery	359,000	317,000
Apparel and slops	412,000	516,000
Cotton manufactures...	431,000	628,000
Haberdashery and millinery...	823,000	811,000
Hats and caps	95,000	97,000
Woollen manufactures	109,000	151,000
Tobacco manufactures (cigars, cigarettes, &c.) ...	100,000	122,000
Wood manufactures (furniture,‡ &c.)	350,000	280,000
Agricultural implements	66,000	65,000
Earthenware and glassware	148,000	106,000
Jewellery and silver plate	71,000	82,000
Railway and tramway material (not rails)§ ...	94,000	52,000
Vehicles (including motor vehicles)	135,000	121,000
Articles imported through Parcels Post	181,000	165,000
Articles imported for use of Government	627,000	354,000
Specie	*	65,000
Total imports	10,138,000	10,289,000

* Less than 300*l*.
† Including locomotives in 1905.
‡ Including carpets in 1904.
§ Including locomotives in 1904.

RUSSIAN STATE SPIRIT MONOPOLY.

H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg (Mr. C. Spring-Rice), has forwarded the following memorandum on the subject of the financial results for 1904 of the Russian State spirit monopoly:—

"The spirit monopoly, which was introduced experimentally in four Governments on 1st January, 1905, has been extended gradually, and by the middle of 1904 its operations covered all the Provinces of European Russia and Siberia (Finland excepted). Comparing the yield of the beer and spirit excise before the introduction of the monopoly with that of the beer excise and the spirit monopoly after the introduction of the latter, the results are as follows: Before introduction, 30·7 millions sterling; after introduction, 42 millions. Allowing for extra expenditure in connection with control, &c., the result shows an increased revenue of 9·83 millions.

"In 1904, the population of the districts served by the monopoly was 127 millions. There were 2,368 distilleries, 335 bottling establishments, 28,209 establishments for sale. The amount of spirits sold was 189 million gallons, or less than 1½ per head. There was a slight reduction of the consumption as compared with the preceding year, owing to the comparatively poorer harvest, and the diminished purchasing power of the population.

"The gross yield in 1904 was 57 million sterling, and the expenditure 16·7 million, giving a net yield of 40·3, or 683,000*l.* less than the preceding year. The expenses of production were nearly 400,000*l.* more than in 1903.

"The movable and real property possessed by the Crown in connection with the monopoly was valued at 10·7 millions sterling."

It will be seen, says Mr. Spring-Rice, that the returns are satisfactory to the Government exchequer, as the yields are nearly 10,000,000*l.* superior to those derived by the State from the spirit and beer excise before the introduction of the spirit monopoly. The net revenue has, however, fallen off as compared with that of the year preceding the returns now published, which relate to 1904. This is attributable to the inferior harvest of 1903, which diminished the purchasing power of the population, and also to increased cost of production.

It is important to bear in mind that the introduction of the spirit monopoly resulted in increasing the Government revenues at the expense of the resources of the local administrations, and that the increased profit of the State implies the withdrawal of funds from the local bodies, which were generally employed for purposes of local improvement and education.

CONDITION OF TRADE AT NEWCHWANG.

The following information, relating to the condition of trade at Newchwang during the last quarter of 1905, is based on a despatch which has been received at the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Pekin (Sir E. M. Satow, G.C.M.G.):—

The season was a late one and the last steamer did not leave Newchwang until 5th December. There was a rush of business after the plague restrictions were withdrawn on 11th November, and a large amount of goods was brought in.

There is, however, a great accumulation of imports in the town and the difficulties and expense of transport to the interior are so great that trade is in an unsatisfactory state. Cart hire is extremely high. As regards transport by the Chinese Eastern Railway, some facilities are now granted. Only one train per day is available. At present anyone is allowed to send goods by this train, but arrangements are being made to open Railway Transportation Offices at Newchwang and it may be presumed that in the near future goods will only be allowed to be sent through these offices.

With the conclusion of peace and the prospect of expansion of trade in Manchuria some signs of commercial activity in the port might be mentioned:

A Chamber of Commerce of foreign merchants, including Japanese, was formed on 19th October. A Japanese-Chinese Traders Association was formed in December for periodical discussion of mercantile matters. One of the well-known German firms in China opened a branch there on 18th August. On 28th October they announced that they had been appointed Agents for the Russo-Chinese Bank. The firm are reported to be desirous of resuscitating a direct export trade in hides, wool and bristles which used to exist, but was subsequently diverted in Chinese hands to an indirect trade *viâ* Shanghai or Tientsin.

The manager of the Shanghai Branch of one of the large British Banks in the East visited Newchwang in October with the view of ascertaining the prospects for a foreign bank in the port. The British-American Tobacco Company, a British corporation, has opened an agency there, and is actively pushing its business in Manchuria.

Preparations are being made both by Japanese and British firms to provide wharfage and "godown" accommodation on a large scale and according to the requirements of foreign banking business. A foreign bank will naturally advance money only on cargo in "godowns" over which they can exercise the usual control. The want of such accommodation has been a great hindrance to the establishment of a foreign bank, although the Russo-Chinese Bank and the Yokohama Specie Bank under special circumstances both opened here.

Apart from the abnormal quantity of imports brought in in anticipation of a demand in the interior at profitable prices which has not yet been realised, and a great shrinkage in exports caused by the difficulty of bringing down produce from the interior, there have been no notable features in the trade of the quarter. The precautions adopted by the Japanese to prevent the plague spreading from the port to the interior accentuated the situation.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Operation of Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, 1905.

With reference to the notice on page 315 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 15th February last respecting the Commonwealth "Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act, 1905," the Board of Trade have now received a copy of a Proclamation, dated 14th February, 1906, notifying that the above-mentioned Act will come into operation on 8th June, 1906.

Customs Decisions.

The "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 10th February last contains a Supplement (No. 59), dated 9th February, 1906, giving Customs decisions relating to the rates of duty leviable on various articles imported into the Commonwealth.

The following are the principal decisions given:—

Articles, and how classed.	Rates of Import Duty.
Acid, formic—	
As other acids	Free.
Book-backs—composed of leather and metal—	
Turnlock for fitting into book covers—	
As manufactured stationery	25 % *ad val.*
Buckles for apparel, leather covered—	
As minor articles for apparel	Free.
*Buckles and grips, with textile material attached, for use to complete the manufacture of stocking suspenders—	
As apparel and attire and articles, n.e.i.	25 % *ad val.*
Engine, turbo blowing—	
As machinery, n.e.i.	12½ % "
Hair frame and comb combined—	
As brushware and combs (toilet), &c.	15 % "
Lime juice cordial and orange syrup (non-spirituous), artificially prepared—	
As lime juice and other fruit juices	9*d*. per gallon.
Oil, fir-tree—	
As insecticides, disinfectants	Free.
Paper, waxed, cut into sizes for wrapping confectionery—	
As paper, n.e.i....	15 % *ad val.*
Perambulator parts, forming sets constituting complete perambulators—	
As vehicles, n.e.i., and parts, n.e.i.	20 % "
Weed killer, a chemical compound of arsenic—	
As drugs	Free.

* Revised decision.

NEW ZEALAND.

Customs Decision respecting Sateen Sleeve-linings.

With reference to the notice published in the "Board of Trade Journal" for 8th March last giving a Customs decision under Order No. 792, respecting the importation of "sateen sleeve-linings" into New Zealand, the Board of Trade have now

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

received a Commissioner's Order (No. 794), dated 16th January, 1906, revising the previous decision as to the size of sateen sleeve-linings that may be imported free of duty into the colony, viz.:—

"Sateen printed and striped sleeve-linings, 39 ins. *to* (instead of '*by*' under order No. 792) 40 ins., of such colours, patterns, and textures as may be approved by the Commissioner."

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Liquor (Amending) Ordinance, 1906.

A copy of the "British Central Africa Gazette" for 31st January last has been received which contains an Ordinance (No. 1 of 1906) empowering the Commissioner to exempt, by notice in the "Gazette," any distilled or alcoholic liquors from the payment, in part or in whole, of the import duty of 15s. per proof gallon prescribed by the "British Central Africa Liquor (Amending) Ordinance of 1905."

It is also provided in the Ordinance that no licence to import shall be necessary in respect of liquors so exempted, and also that such liquors shall be exempted from the operation of section 3 of the Liquor Ordinance of 1904, and may thus be sold to natives.

Import Duty on Scents and Perfumes.

The same issue of the "Gazette" contains a notice, dated 31st January, 1906, issued under the provisions of the above-mentioned Ordinance No. 1 of 1906, exempting the following articles from the import duty prescribed by the "Liquor (Amending) Ordinance of 1905":—

All scents and perfumes containing distilled or alcoholic liquors.

The notice, at the same time, provides that the duty on such articles shall be 10 per cent. *ad val.* on importation into the Protectorate.

Licence for the Sale of Liquors.

A further notice of the same date is also published in the "Gazette" prescribing an annual licence fee of 3*l.* for the sale of liquors in the Protectorate, in lieu of the licence prescribed by the "British Central Africa Liquor Ordinance, 1904."

NORTH-WESTERN RHODESIA (BAROTZILAND).

Customs Regulations.

With reference to the notice on p. 595 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for 28th December last, respecting the entry of North-Western Rhodesia (Barotziland) into the South African Customs Union from 1st December, 1905, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Colonial Office, copies of Government Notices (Nos. 119 of 1905 and 4 of 1906) giving the Customs Regulations to be observed in respect of goods imported from or exported to places beyond the limits of the Customs Union.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

NORTH-WESTERN RHODESIA (BAROTZILAND)—*continued.*

These Regulations, which take the place of those promulgated under the "Customs Duties Proclamation (Barotziland), 1904," may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Ports of Entry.

A copy of a High Commissioner's Notice (No. 120 of 1905), dated 5th December, 1905, has been received, notifying, in terms of Section 23 of the "Customs Proclamation (Barotziland), 1905," that the Administrator has appointed :—

(*a*) Livingstone (new township) and Victoria Falls Station to be "Ports of Entry" into Barotziland.

(*b*) Livingstone to be a "Free Warehousing Port" at which goods imported into Barotziland without payment of duties on importation, may be warehoused under bond.

Special Duties on Bounty-Fed Sugar.

The Board of Trade have received a further Notice (No. 121 of 1905), dated 5th December, 1905, which provides for the imposition of special duties, from 1st December, 1905, on bounty-fed sugar imported into Barotziland from the undermentioned countries, viz. :—

Countries.		Special Import Duties on		
		Raw Sugar.	Refined Sugar.	Candied Sugar.
		s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Denmark	per 100 lbs.	0 7½	1 3	—
Spain	"	9 8½	9 8½	—
Japan	"	—	—	0 11¼
Argentine Republic...	"	5 5	7 2	3 9
Roumania	"	6 4½	8 1	—
Russia	"	2 2¾	2 11¼	—
Chili	"	2 1¾	4 9	—

GAMBIA.

Import Duties on Kola Nuts and Unmanufactured Tobacco Increased.

The Board of Trade have received from the Colonial Secretary, Gambia, a copy of "The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1906," (No. 1 of 1906), which was assented to by the Governor of the Colony on March 1st last.

The Ordinance amends the Customs Tariff Ordinance No. 1 of 1905 by increasing the duties on the following articles imported into the Colony and Protectorate of Gambia :—

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

GAMBIA—*continued.*

Articles.	Import Duties.	
	Old Rates.	New Rates.
	s. d.	s. d.
Kola nuts ... ...per lb.	0 2	0 3
Tobacco, unmanufactured... ... ... „	0 3	0 4

FRANCE.

Closing of Customs Warehouse at Nancy.

According to a recent French Customs circular, the Customs warehouse at Nancy was to be closed from the 1st March, 1906.

Customs Decisions.

The following decisions relating to the application of the Customs Tariff are contained in recent circulars of the French Customs Department :—

Colours prepared with caseine, dry or in aqueous solution, are to continue to be dutiable under No. 310 of the Tariff, as colours not specially mentioned, at the rate of 5 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Fancy articles in the form of watches, such as sovereign purses, match boxes, stamp cases, &c., generally made of common metal gilt, silvered, oxidised, or nickelled, also *protective cases for watches*, are to be dutiable as imitation jewellery under No. 496 *bis* of the Tariff, at the rate of 2 frs. per kilog. (0·6*d.* per oz. troy).

FRANCE—ALGERIA.

Opening of El-Aricha to Transit Traffic to Morocco.

A French Presidential Decree, dated 9th January, 1906, opens the Customs-house of El-Aricha, in the Department of Oran (Algeria), for the exportation by land of goods passing in transit through Algeria to Morocco.

FRENCH WEST AFRICAN COLONIES—SENEGAL.

Import Duty on Cotton Guinea-Cloths.

The French "Journal Officiel" for the 14th March contains a Presidential Decree providing that, as an exception to the unified Customs Tariff for the French Possessions in West Africa (noted in the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 4th May, 1905), the former import duty of 25 millimes per metre, with a surtax of 6 centimes per metre on the foreign article, is to be re-imposed on cotton guinea-cloths imported into *Senegal.*

* A translation of this tariff has recently been issued by the Board of Trade as a Parliamentary Paper. [Cd. 2,857. *Price* 9*d.*]

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN.

Revision of the Customs Tariff.

With reference to previous notices in the "Journal" on the subject of the revision of the Spanish Customs Tariff, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of the Bill effecting this revision, as finally passed by the Cortes.

The *ad valorem* limits within which the Spanish Government is authorised to assess specific duties on the various groups of merchandise are fixed as follows:—

The maximum duty on natural and artificial manures, and on the natural raw materials for their manufacture, shall not exceed 1 per cent.

Natural products such as are not produced in Spain, and are employed as raw material by national industry, excepting manures and food stuffs, shall pay a duty not exceeding 10 per cent. *ad valorem.*

If the above-mentioned raw material be such as is produced in Spain, the duty shall not exceed 15 per cent. This category shall include vessels, agricultural machinery, cattle, and drugs.

Natural products not employed as raw material, and food stuffs not being articles suitable for taxation for Revenue purposes (*articulos de renta*), shall be taxed up to 20 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Industrial products shall pay from 15 to 50 per cent. *ad valorem*, excepting such as are not produced in Spain, which shall pay from 10 to 35 per cent.

The following shall be considered as industrial products:—Chemical products, with the exception of those regarded as *articulos de renta* and having an alcoholic basis, and mineral manures and the raw materials destined for their manufacture.

In assessing the above-mentioned percentage rates, account shall be taken of the cost of the raw material; if local production employs home-produced or only imported materials; the degree to which the goods are manufactured; the greater or less difficulty of producing them; the actual or potential development of such production in Spain; and the requirements of consumption.

Articulos de renta and products or manufactures which, owing to the difficulties of their manufacture or the recognised advantages of their home production, require exceptional Tariff protection, may be subjected to rates exceeding 50 per cent. *ad valorem.*

The value to be taken as the basis for the assessment of these duties shall be the average value during the last three years of the goods on their arrival at the frontier or at a Spanish port, after adding to the invoice value the costs of transport, insurance, and commission; the valuation being made in gold, and the import duties being fixed and paid in the same currency.

The Import Tariff is to consist of two tariffs to be known as first and second; the second tariff is to be drawn up on the lines described above, and is to be applied to goods from nations according Spanish produce their lowest Customs duties. The first tariff will be formed by adding various surtaxes to the rates of the second tariff, and is to be applied to goods from countries other than those above mentioned.

The duties are to be subject to revision every five years.

The special reduced rates of duty on railway material imported by railway companies under the present tariff are abolished.

Export duties shall be imposed only on the following articles:—Cork in the rough or in sheets or squares; old rags of flax, cotton,

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

SPAIN—*continued.*

or hemp, and worn clothing, &c., of these materials; galena and litharge of all kinds, and other lead minerals; argentiferous lead; iron ore; copper ore; copper matte; bones, natural or calcined. The valuation of the above articles for the purpose of assessing export duties is to be made in gold, and the duties also are to be fixed and levied in gold.

A complete translation of the Bill in its final form may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

All Customs Duties to be Levied in Gold.

With reference to the notice at p. 462 of the "Journal" for the 8th inst., on the subject of the payment in gold of Spanish import and export duties, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a despatch from H.M. Embassy at Madrid, reporting that the Bill providing for the fixing and payment of all import and export duties in gold has been passed by the Cortes.

It is stated in the despatch, on the authority of the President of the Council of Ministers, that the Law will be put into force not later than 30th June next, when the Agreement with Switzerland terminates.

ITALY.

Revised Customs Tariff.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of the revised edition of the Italian Customs Tariff, as in force from the 1st March. The new edition embodies all the modifications introduced in the tariff by the new Commercial Treaties with Switzerland, Germany, and Austria-Hungary; as well as the modifications in the "general" tariff referred to in the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 30th March and the 20th July, 1905.

Veterinary Fee for Cattle in Transit.

According to the "Bollettino Ufficiale" of the Italian Ministry of Finance for January it has been decided that the fee payable for the veterinary examination of cattle passing in transit through Italy is to be paid only at the entrance of the cattle into Italy, and not also on their leaving the country.

Withdrawal of Prohibition to Import Hides, &c., from Egypt.

According to the same publication the prohibition against the importation into Italy of hides and skins and other animal products or waste from Egypt, has been revoked by Ministerial Decree of 12th January, 1906.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—*continued.*

Certificates of Origin for Cheese imported by land.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 219 of the "Journal" for the 1st February, relating to the certificates of origin required by the Italian Customs in the case of certain articles, including cheese, for which the benefits of the Conventional Tariff are claimed, it may be noted that Italian Customs officers have now been authorised to dispense with the certificate of origin in the case of *cheese imported by land.*

ITALY—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Schedule of Italian Import Duties.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 598 of the "Journal" for the 28th September, 1905, on the subject of the commercial relations between Italy and Austria-Hungary, the "Reichsgesetzblatt" for the 28th February contains the text of a new Commercial Treaty between the two countries which was signed on the 11th February last and came into force on the 1st March. The following is a translation of Schedule A attached to the new Treaty, containing the duties to be levied on Austro-Hungarian imports into Italy. The rates inscribed in this Schedule are applicable to imports into Italy from the United Kingdom, under the most-favoured-nation clause of the Anglo-Italian Treaty of 1883 :—

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty. Lire.	cts.
1	Mineral waters, natural or artificial	100 kilogs.	0	50
2	Aerated waters	"	0	50
4	Beer—			
	In casks or barrels	Hectol.	3	00
	In bottles	Hundred	3	00
Ex 8 (*a*)	Oil of turpentine	100 kilogs.	3	00
"	Cart greases of all kinds, containing not more than 15 per cent. of mineral oil of a specific gravity greater than 0·875	"	5	00
Ex 8 (*b*)	Benzole and other coal-tar oils, light and limpid, for use as raw materials in the manufacture of artificial organic colours, or of varnishes, lacquers, and similar products	"	5	00
	Note.—Coal-tar oils included under this heading, in order to be dutiable at the conventional rate of duty, must be denatured, at the cost of the interested party, by means of special substances to be decided upon by common agreement according to the different industries.			
Ex 10	"*Diamalt*"	—	Free	
12	Chicory and all other substitutes for coffee—			
	(*a*) Dried	—	Free	
	(*b*) Roasted, even ground	100 kilogs.	8	00

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Article.	Units.	Rate of Duty.
			Lire. cts.
Ex 3 (*i*)	Tanning extracts	—	Free
46	Sulphate of mercury (cinnabar or vermilion) ...	100 kilogs.	80 00
Ex 58	Ceresine, pure or mixed with paraffin	"	8 00
Ex 59	Mineral water salts and spring salts of Darkau, Frazensbad, Hall, Hallein, Karlsbad, Marienbad, Zablacz, &c.	"	10 00
Ex 72 (*a*)	Cart greases—		
	Composed of oil of resin and lime	—	Free
	Others, containing no mineral oil	100 kilogs.	5 00
Ex 75	Roots, barks, leaves, flowers, lichens, herbs, and fruits for dyeing and tanning—		
	(*a*) Not ground	—	Free
Ex 87 (*b*)	Linen yarn, lye-washed or bleached, single I, measuring to the kilogramme—		
	From 7,000 up to 20,000 metres	100 kilogs.	17 50
	20,000 " 37,000 "	"	22 00
	Over 37,000 metres	"	35 00
	Note to Nos. 87 *and* 95.—The duties on unbleached linen yarns and tissues shall in no case be higher than those on bleached yarns and tissues of the same category.		
Ex 93 (*b*)	Jute carpets, even with cotton warp—		
	Velvet like	"	60 00
	Chenille carpets...	"	40 00
Ex 95 (*b*)	Linen tissues, lye-washed or bleached, plain, having in warp and weft in a square of 5 mm. side—		
	More than 10 and up to 26 threads	"	66 40
	" 26 " 45 "	"	84 00
	" 45 threads	"	158 60
Ex 95 (*c*)	Linen tissues, bleached, figured or damasked ...	—	Conventional duty on bleached plain tissues.
Ex 95 (*c*) & (*e*)	Linen tissues, dyed or woven of dyed yarns ...	—	Conventional duty on unbleached tissues with a surtax of 35 lire per 100 kilogs.
Ex 96 (*a*)	Stout tissues of linen, hemp, or jute, rendered impermeable by means of oil or tar	100 kilogs.	30 00
	Note.—The conventional duty established for this number is also applicable to stout tissues of linen, hemp, or jute, weighing more than 400 grammes per square metre, rendered impermeable by means of greases, chemical products, or metallic soap.		
Ex 103 (*a*)	Sacks, bed and table linen, towels, handkerchiefs, and curtains simply hemmed	—	Conventional duty on the tissue increase by 10 per cent.
	Note.—Articles included under this heading, with open-worked hems of all kinds made by the sewing machine of the Gegauf or any other system, are not regarded as embroidered, and are subject to the conventional duty on the tissue increased by the surtax of 10 per cent. The fact that weft or warp threads may have been removed is left out of account.		

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.
			Lire. cts.
Ex 103 (*a*)	Sacks, bed and table linen, &c.—*continued.* The same articles with complex open-worked hems are admitted at the conventional duty applicable to the tissue increased by 20 per cent. As regards this species of linen, corners worked in festoon or "spider's web" patterns are not regarded as embroidery, and are not taken into account in assessing duty.		
Ad 103 (*c*)	*Note.*—Tarpaulins made of stout tissues of linen, hemp, or jute, rendered impermeable by means of greases, oil, tar, metallic soap or chemical products, sewn and furnished with buckles, rings, cords, &c., are admitted at the rate fixed for No. 96 (*a*) increased by 10 per cent.		
Ad 112–116	*Note.*—Cotton tissues with rippled surface-dressing produced by the cylinder press machine, are classified, without regard to the rippling, according to the quality of the tissue.		
Ad 119	*Note.*—Open-woven cotton tissues (veilings), not figured, weighing over 3 kilogs. per 100 square metres, are dutiable as plain tissues according to kind.		
Ex 128	Mixed cotton tissues—		
(*b*)	Mixed with wool in a proportion inferior to 50 per cent.	...	Conventional duty on the tissue according to kind, + 20 lire per 100 kilogs.
Ex 132 (*c*)	Horsehair— Curled	100 kilogs.	17 00
138 (*a*)	Woollen tissues— Of carded yarn, weighing per square metre— 300 grammes or less	"	185 00
	More than 300 up to 500 grammes ...	"	160 00
	More than 500 grammes	"	140 00
(*b*)	Of combed yarn, weighing per square metre— 200 grammes or less	"	250 00
	More than 200 up to 500 grammes ...	"	220 00
	More than 500 grammes	"	190 00
(*c*)	Printed	...	Conventional duty on the tissue according to kind, + 30 lire per 100 kilogs.
Ex 138	Press cloths, of wool or camel hair, weighing more than 1,000 grammes per square metre ...	100 kilogs.	120 00
140	Coarse wares of horsehair— Press cloths, of horsehair or other coarse animal hair, weighing more than 1,600 grammes per square metre, including "*étreindelles*" and disks or diaphragms for presses, made from these tissues ...	"	20 00
	Other articles (including cordage)	"	17 00
Ex 141 (*a*)	Horsehair tissues— For sieves	"	30 00

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.
Ad 142	*Note.*—The surtax for sewing for blankets simply hemmed or bound, even with festoon stitch, is fixed at 20 per cent.		
Ad 143	*Note.*—Carpets in the piece, to be sold by the yard, are not subject to any surtax for sewing, even if the ends are sewn in order to prevent the fraying of the tissues. The surtax for sewing in the case of woollen carpets woven in the piece and afterwards separated, simply hemmed or bound on the two sides, without borders, is fixed at 10 per cent. Other woollen carpets simply hemmed or bound are subject to the surtax of 20 per cent. for the sewing.		
Ad 150	*Note.*—(i.) Shawls, scarves, and fichus of wool, woven or knitted, printed or not, furnished with fringes of textile materials mixed with silk in a proportion inferior to 12 per cent., pay the duty applicable to the fringes according to the material predominating in weight, with a surtax of 1 lira per kilog. if the fringes constitute the most highly taxed textile material in the finished article. The surtax for the simple making up of shawls, scarves, and fichus of wool, woven or or knitted, printed or not, furnished or not with fringes, is fixed at 20 per cent. (ii.) Shawls, scarves, and fichus of wool, black, not embroidered, with silk fringes, or embroidered (even with silk) in one corner only, with or without silk fringes, are dutiable according to the tissue, with surtax of 25 per cent. These articles are not subject to the surtax for sewing. (iii.) Woollen made-up articles for men and boys, and woollen mantles and jackets for ladies, pay the duty applicable to the most highly taxed material, in cases where this material constitutes more than one-tenth of the entire surface of the made-up article. If two or more parts composed of the most highly taxed materials constitute when taken together more than one-tenth of the entire surface, the article pays a duty corresponding to the arithmetical mean of the duties applicable to the most highly taxed materials which enter into its composition.		
Ad. 168	*Note.*—The surtax for the making-up of fichus, scarves, and veils, black or coloured, of silk or floss silk, figured or not, hemmed, bound, or provided with fringes, is fixed at 20 per cent.		
169	Charcoal	—	Free
170	Firewood	—	Free
Ex 171	Wood		
(*a*)	Common :—		
	Rough or simply trimmed or hewn with the axe	—	Free

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ITALY—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—*continued.*

Tariff No.	Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.
			Lire. cts.
Ex 171 (*a*)	Wood—Common—*continued.*		
	Squared, sawn longitudinally	—	Free
	Small boards for boxes, sieves, and similar articles; hoops of any size ...	—	Free
	Cut up for the manufacture of matches	—	Free
	Note.—Wooden boards for packing cases; boards or squares not inlaid nor glued, for floors; and, in general, all articles of common wood, even planed, rabbited, or grooved, so far as they are not finished manufactures, are included under No. 171 (*a*) 2.		
	Boards, squares, or sheets, of common wood for veneering, are included under No. 171 (*a*) 2, if they are of a thickness of 2mm. or more.		
	Shingles and staves fall under No. 171 (*a*) 1.		
ex (*b*)	Cabinet makers' wood—		
	Sawn longitudinally	100 kilogs.	3 00
	In boards, or inlaid squares for flooring	"	4 00
	Note.—The dispositions of the existing tariff index respecting the woods dutiable as cabinet makers' wood are maintained in force.		
172	Oars, poles, and props	—	Free.
ex 174	Cork—		
(*c*)	Bricks made from cork waste	100 kilogs.	5 00
175	Empty casks, new or used—		
(*a*)	With wooden hoops	Hectol. capacity.	0 20
(*b*)	" iron "	"	0 30
ex 176	Furniture and parts of furniture, rough or finished—		
(*a*)	Not stuffed—		
	Of common bent wood	100 kilogs	7 50
	Other of common wood	"	13 00
	Note.—Furniture, not stuffed, of common bent wood, is dutiable under No. 176 (*a*) 1, even if it is combined with common unbent wood (which may be veneered with common wood), or with straw, cane, or other like plaiting, and with parts turned, perforated, or with ornaments obtained by pressure or by means of the cutting-machine, but not carved.		
	Furniture not stuffed, of common unbent wood, is dutiable under No. 176 (*a*) 2, even if it is turned, veneered with common wood, perforated, or with ornaments obtained by pressure or by means of the cutting-machine, and combined with plaiting of straw, cane, and the like, but not carved.		
	Furniture, not stuffed, of common wood, with iron parts or other ordinary, non-ornamental accessories of common metal, even nickelled, are not excluded from Nos. 176 (*a*) 1 and 2.		
	Of cabinetmakers' wood	"	60 00
	Veneered, carved, or inlaid	"	60 00
	Note.—Furniture, not stuffed, of common wood, with burnt-in or etched ornaments, but not veneered, carved, or inlaid, is admitted at the rate of 15 lire per 100 kilogs. if made of common bent wood, and at the rate of 20 lire per 100 kilogs. if made of common unbent wood.		

(*To be continued.*)

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—MONTENEGRO.

Commercial Relations between the above Countries.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a translation of an Austro-Hungarian Ministerial Decree, dated 15th March, providing that the conventional rates of the new Austro-Hungarian Customs Tariff are, until further notice, to be applied to imports from Montenegro, as similar treatment is guaranteed to imports from Austria-Hungary into Montenegro.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Modifications in Customs Tariff.

With reference to the notice which appeared on p. 514 of the "Journal" for the 15th March, on the subject of the increase of the duty on cotton "splits" under the Customs tariff of the Philippines, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of the Act of the United States Congress introducing this increase, and making certain other alterations in respect of the import duties on cotton tissues and on boots and shoes, and of the export duty on coco-nuts. The following is a statement of these alterations:—

(i.) *Classification of Cotton "Splits."*—It is provided that "textiles having a false selvage, on either one or both sides, shall be considered as goods improved in condition and shall be liable, as the textile, to the duties leviable thereon, plus an additional surtax of 100 per cent. This provision applies to all cotton fabrics.

Note.—By a false selvage shall be understood an edge obtained by cutting, ripping, tearing, or otherwise splitting the textile in the direction of the warp."

(ii.) *Cotton Tissues.*—Paragraphs 117–120 of the Tariff are altered to read as follows:—

117.—Textiles, plain and without figures, napped or not, weighing 10 kilogs. or more per 100 square metres, unbleached, bleached, or dyed; and

Textiles, plain and without figures, stamped or printed, napped or not, measuring not over 65 centimetres in width, weighing 8 kilogs. or more per 100 square metres; and

Textiles, plain and without figures, not stamped or printed, whatever be their width, weighing 8 kilogs. or more per 100 square metres, having:—

(*a*) Up to 18 threads, n.w.,* kilog., 10 cents.
(*b*) From 19 to 31 threads, n.w., kilog., 14 cents.
(*c*) From 32 to 34 threads, n.w., kilog., 18 cents.
(*d*) From 35 to 38 threads, n.w., kilog., 24 cents.
(*e*) From 39 to 44 threads, n.w., kilog., 28 cents.
(*f*) 45 threads or more, n.w., kilog., 32 cents.
(*g*) The same textiles, stamped, printed, or manufactured with dyed yarns: dutiable as the textile, with a surtax of 30 per cent.

Note.—Textiles woven with a coloured yarn on the selvage, or with a coloured selvage stripe not exceeding 2 millimetres in width, shall not be considered as manufactured with dyed yarns.

* N.W. indicates that the duties are levied on the *net weight* of the tissues.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—*continued.*

118.—Other textiles, plain and without figures, napped or not, weighing less than 10 kilogs. per 100 square metres, unbleached, bleached, or dyed, having—

(*a*) Up to 18 threads, n.w., kilog., 18 cents.
(*b*) From 19 to 31 threads, n.w., kilog., 27 cents.
(*c*) From 32 to 34 threads, n.w., kilog., 32 cents.
(*d*) From 35 to 38 threads, n.w., kilog., 36 cents.
(*e*) From 39 to 44 threads, n.w., kilog., 40 cents.
(*f*) 45 threads or more, n.w., kilog., 50 cents.
(*g*) The same textiles, stamped, printed, or manufactured with dyed yarns: dutiable as the textile, with a surtax of 40 per cent.

119.—Textiles, twilled or figured on the loom, napped or not, weighing 10 kilogs. or more per 100 square metres, unbleached, bleached, or dyed, having—

(*a*) Up to 18 threads, n.w., kilog., 14 cents.
(*b*) From 19 to 31 threads, n.w., kilog., 18 cents.
(*c*) From 32 to 34 threads, n.w., kilog., 22 cents.
(*d*) From 35 to 38 threads, n.w., kilog., 26 cents.
(*e*) From 39 to 44 threads, n.w., kilog., 30 cents.
(*f*) 45 threads or more, n.w., kilog., 38 cents.
(*g*) The same textiles, stamped, printed, or manufactured with dyed yarns: dutiable as the textile with a surtax of 30 per cent.

Note.—Textiles woven with a coloured yarn on the selvage, or with a coloured selvage stripe not exceeding two millimetres in width, shall not be considered as manufactured with dyed yarn.

120.—Textiles, twilled or figured on the loom, napped or not, weighing less than 10 kilogs. per 100 square metres, unbleached, bleached, or dyed, having—

(*a*) Up to 18 threads, n.w., kilog., 20 cents.
(*b*) From 19 to 31 threads, n.w., kilog., 29 cents.
(*c*) From 32 to 34 threads, n.w., kilog., 38 cents.
(*d*) From 35 to 38 threads, n.w., kilog., 44 cents.
(*e*) From 39 to 44 threads, n.w., kilog., 50 cents.
(*f*) 45 threads or more, n.w., kilog., 58 cents.
(*g*) The same textiles, stamped, printed, or manufactured with dyed yarns: dutiable as the textile, with a surtax of 40 per cent.

(iii.) *Cotton blankets, &c.*—"Carded tissues, in blankets and other articles," manufactured with dyed yarns, are subdivided as follows:—

(*a*) Where the number of dyed yarn threads, counted in the warp and weft, does not exceed one-fifth of the total number of threads composing the textile: dutiable under No. 123 (*a*) of the tariff, at the rate of 8 cents per kilog. (net weight).
(*b*) Where the number of such threads does not exceed one-half: dutiable under No. 123 (*b*), at the rate of 14 cents per kilog.
(*c*) Where the number of such threads exceeds one-half: dutiable under No. 123 (*c*), at the rate of 20 cents per kilog.

The surtax on "blankets, single, or in pairs, *hemmed or bound,*" is fixed at 30 per cent. of the duties leviable thereon.

(iv.) *Boots and shoes.*—Paragraphs 223 and 225 of the Tariff are altered to read as follows:—

223.—Shoes or gaiters of calfskin, kid, and similar leather, with elastic or buttons or for lacing—

(*a*) For men, size numbered 5½ or larger, per pair, 30 cents.
(*b*) For boys, smaller than size numbered 5½, per pair, 20 cents.
(*c*) For women, size numbered 2½ or larger, per pair, 25 cents.
(*d*) For girls, smaller than size numbered 2½, per pair, 20 cents.
(*e*) For babies, per pair, 5 cents.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—*continued.*

225.—Other boots and shoes, fancy, per pair, 50 cents.
Other boots and shoes not specifically provided for—
(*a*) For men, size numbered 5½ or larger, per pair, 30 cents.
(*b*) For boys, smaller than size numbered 5½, per pair, 20 cents.
(*c*) For women, size numbered 2½ or larger, per pair, 25 cents.
(*d*) For girls, smaller than size numbered 2½, per pair, 20 cents.
(*e*) For babies, per pair, 5 cents.

(v.) *Export duties.*—The export duty on coco-nuts is abolished; but copra, fresh or dried, is still subject to a duty of 10 cents. per 100 kilogs. under No. 402 of the Tariff.

(vi.) *Time of operation.*—It is provided that "all merchandise "actually in transit, or in any bonded warehouse of the Philippine "Islands at the time of the passage of this Act, may, for a period "of 60 days thereafter, be entered at the rate of duty provided by "Law existing prior to the passage of this Act."

CHINA.

Imports at Dalny Free of Duty.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that goods, irrespective of nationality, are entering Dalny free of duty.

Numbering of Goods to be Re-exported from Shanghai.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 316 of the "Board of Trade Journal" for the 16th November last, on the subject of the requirement of the Shanghai Customs Authorities that the *numbers* as well as the marks of packages of foreign merchandise should be stated on "Foreign Goods Passes," when the merchandise is to be re-exported with benefit of drawback, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a full explanatory memorandum on the subject, which has been drawn up by the Acting Commercial Attaché at Peking.

From this memorandum it appears that the regulation is not a new one, but dates from 1886; and was originally framed to facilitate the identification of foreign goods on re-exportation from Shanghai, at which port alone it is applicable. If the serial numbering of packages be found impracticable, one and the same number may be given to each package of a consignment, provided the same number be not used for subsequent consignments. Further, certain articles (*e.g.*, kerosene, potatoes, sugar, flour rice, coke and coal) are not required to be numbered.

A copy of the memorandum may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ECUADOR.

New Customs Tariff. (*Continued from p.* 568 *of last week's "Board of Trade Journal"*):—

Article 7.—The following articles form the 5th class, and shall pay 3 centavos per kilog. gross weight:—

Iron cooking stoves, corrugated iron sheets and iron gutters or ridging; tissue paper, excepting that used for artificial flowers; bags of straw paper, not printed; tin plate, plain, in sheets; zinc in plain sheets or in the rough.

Article 8.—The following articles form the 6th class, and shall pay 4 centavos per kilog. gross weight.

Sugar; Chancaca (sugar refuse, 3rd class or less).

Article 9.—The following articles form the 7th class, and shall pay 5 centavos per kilog. gross weight.

Machine oil; annatto; alum; apparatus (not of glass) for the manufacture of aerated waters; almonds in the shell; hydrochloric, rectified phenic, nitric, boric and carbonic acids; liquid ammonia; whale oil; codliver oil and its emulsions and jellies; herrings; elevators; hazel nuts; railings for balconies, excepting those made of wood; empty barrels, buckets, pipes and hogsheads of wood, either whole or in pieces; pitch; tar; brass, copper, tin, and bronze, in bars, or unperforated sheets, in the rough or waste articles; cooking utensils of cast iron, enamelled or not; bidets and accessories; iron chains such as those used for ships and boats; calcium carbide; iron safes, over 50 kilos. in weight; wooden packing cases, in pieces; bells; salt meat and pemmican; carriages, whole or in parts; beer; Chile coquitos; tents and tarpaulins; prunes; oiled packing covers; brooms; oakum of all sorts; sculptures of stone of 100 kilos. weight or over; straw envelopes for bottles, when they come alone; forges; dried fruits and other comestibles unprepared, not otherwise specified; jacks for lifting weights; hypochlorite of lime; flour of all sorts; cotton waste; ordinary unscented soap of all kinds; raw hams and bacon; sisal and manilla rope; wire rope and cable; kerosine of 150 degrees or more test; oiled canvas; washers for kitchens or clothes; fine crockery; marble, polished, and mausoleums and monuments in general; maizena; walnuts; candle wicks; straw for brooms; fonts of marble, iron, or other material; printed packing paper; dry or salt fish; iron doors for safes or vaults; raisins; chicha (fermented drink); organs; groats; printed straw-paper bags; bath tubs and bath apparatus and accessories; tapioca and other starch products; wire netting; wines in general, except sparkling and medicinal; glass sheets, not more than one metre square; wine vinegar; ordinary glass or crystal ware; blacksmiths' anvils; broomsticks; kola water; ginger ale; crude petroleum; wooden pegs for boots; sal-ammoniac.

Article 10.—The following articles form the 8th class and shall pay 5 centavos per kilog. net weight.

Mortars; gymnastic apparatus; crutches and artificial limbs; sanitary paper; insect destroyers in powder, paste, &c.; rat and insect traps; drawing and illustrated books for students; show cases.

Article 11.—The following articles form the 9th class, and shall pay 10 centavos per kilog. gross weight.

Olives, however packed; eau de cologne; raw cotton; shelled almonds; red lead; sulphur; indigo; Prussian blue; almond, castor, linseed, and olive oils; lavender; canary seed; harmoniums; scented toilet waters, viz., Florida, kananga, divina, bay rum; starch of all kinds; billiard tables and accessories imported therewith; borax; bedsteads of wood, iron or other metal; crude wax and ceresine; preserves and food products, not specially mentioned; earthenware jugs; tomatoes in sauce or preserved; fine crystal ware; pickles; indiarubber, manufactured, painted and ornamented for flooring; blue denims,

Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations.

ECUADOR—*continued.*

corduroy, blue regattas (*duradera y diablo fuerte*); stone sculptures, less than 100 kilogs.; heating stoves; diving dresses; fruits in syrup; bellows for forges; axes and hatchets; cereal foods for children, &c.; cotton rope; syrups, not medicinal; canvas; raw wool; grey domestics; sand cloth and paper; yeast and baking powder for bread; silvered glass; writing and account books, plain or printed; hogs' lard, into the composition of which a maximum of 50 per cent. stearine enters, all others are of prohibited introduction; putty for painters; furniture of all kinds, whole or in pieces, of all materials and coverings; gas and water meters; porcelain articles not otherwise specified; wall paper; pianos; pianolas and similar articles; paint, in paste, powder, or other form; cord and string; flat irons; seed for sowing; oilcloth for floors; cheese; empty sacks; vices for blacksmiths; chalk, not prepared; glass sheets, engraved, decorated, or bevelled; candles, all sorts; medicinal wines; plaster-of-paris; writing ink; pure butter; nails and tacks of any metal, less than one inch, excepting those for furniture and adornment; ordinary paste blacking, such as "Masons" and other similar sorts.

(*To be continued.*)

SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT.

MAURITIUS.

Shipping Regulations.

The Board of Trade have received from the Acting Collector of Customs at Port Louis certain regulations, made by the Governor of Mauritius under the provisions of Article 3 of Ordinance No. 19 of 1905, for the purpose of managing and controlling cargo hulks and receiving ships in the harbour of Port Louis.

These regulations, which came into force on January 15th last, may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

NORWAY.

Tonnage and Light Dues.

Referring to the notice on p. 352 of the "Board of Trade Journal" of 23rd November, 1905, the general introductory regulations to the new Norwegian Customs Tariff provide that tonnage and light dues shall be paid by vessels importing goods, at the rate of 0·80 kr., and by vessels exporting goods, at the rate of 0·50 kr. per ton.

Regarding the interpretation of these regulations, H.M. Minister at Christiania (Sir A. Herbert, K.C.V.O.) states that ships' dues (tonnage and light dues) are reckoned, in accordance with the regulations of the 14th June, 1879*, for the conversion of goods to tons (*i.e.* register tons), upon the number of tons loaded or discharged—provided, of course, that the goods are dutiable—but

* A translation of these regulations may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Shipping and Transport.

NORWAY—*continued.*

not on a greater number of tons (register tons) than that to which the net tonnage of the vessel amounts, except where goods are carried in deck erections or spaces on the shelter deck that can be closed, but which, on account of certain openings, are not included in the calculation of the gross tonnage, in which case dues are also reckoned upon the number of tons (register tons) to which the goods in these receptacles are equivalent, even if the net tonnage of the vessel be thereby exceeded.

The above-mentioned net tonnage means the vessel's net *register* tonnage (measured tons) as entered in the ship's bill of measurement, which as a rule must not be exceeded, when the goods *are converted*, according to the above-mentioned stowage regulations (from weight or cubic contents) to register tons, *i.e.* to the tonnage equivalent of the cargo.

The carrying capacity of the vessel in tons (*i.e., dead-weight tons*) is left out *of consideration*, as it is generally very much greater than, and may sometimes even be as much as two or three times as great as, the net registered tonnage.

Nor has the gross tonnage any connection with this matter.

When the cargo of a vessel (loading or discharging) consists of goods both dutiable and duty-free, no notice is taken, in the calculation of the dues, of the amount of free goods stowed, but the dues are reckoned directly upon the number of register tons to which the *dutiable goods alone amount.*

If, for instance, a vessel which, according to her bill of measurement, has a net tonnage of 500 tons, ship a cargo of dutiable and duty-free goods, which together, according to the stowage regulations, are calculated at 800 registered tons, and of which the dutiable goods alone amount to 600 register tons, the dues for these will be reckoned upon the full net tonnage of the vessel (500 register tons), with an additional amount if there are dutiable articles carried in the open deck-erections. as explained above.

There is thus *no reduction* in the net tonnage as regards the 200 register tons to which the stowage of the duty-free articles alone amounts.

If, as a further instance, the same vessel had a duty-free cargo amounting to 600 register tons, and in addition had shipped dutiable goods to the amount of 200 register tons, the dues would be reckoned upon these last-mentioned 200 register tons, notwithstanding that the vessel was more than fully laden with articles that are exempt from duty.

For purposes of tonnage and light dues assessment, such spaces in a vessel as are occupied by goods of the following kinds shall not be reckoned as belonging to the laden portion of the vessel's capacity:—

(1) Hay, straw, wood, ice, bricks, roofing tiles and stone (not mixed with apatite), when the aforesaid goods are being exported.

Shipping and Transport.

NORWAY—*continued.*

(2) Hay, straw, gypsum, manure and sand which has previously served as packing for goods exported, when the aforesaid goods are being imported. (3) Passengers' luggage, ships' stores and articles for use on board (*e.g.*, coal, fishing tackle). (4) Open boats used by Norwegian fishermen for fishing outside Norwegian territorial waters. (5) Goods imported by the same vessel and in the course of the same voyage on which they were exported.

Tonnage and light dues shall be refunded when the exported goods are brought back into the country by the same vessel and on the same voyage. If only a portion of the cargo be so brought back, the Customs Department shall determine how far, and, in the circumstances to what amount, such refund shall be allowed.

FRANCE.

New Port Due at Honfleur.

A decree appears in the French "Journal Officiel" of 25th March authorising, from the date of promulgation thereof, the collection of a toll of 35 millimes per metric ton of merchandise discharged from all vessels entering the port of Honfleur, excepting regular steamers employed mainly in the passenger service. The proceeds of the toll are to be devoted towards the expenses of upkeep of the life-saving and salvage appliances, and the proper supervision of the quays and warehouses of the port.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Registration of Foreign Vessels wrecked on American Coasts.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of an Act, passed by the United States Senate and by the House of Representatives, which reads as follows:—

"An Act to repeal section forty-one hundred and thirty-six of the Revised statutes relating to the admission to registry of repaired foreign wrecks.

"*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section forty one hundred and thirty six of the Revised Statutes, as amended, reading as follows: 'The Commissioner of Navigation may issue a register or enrolment for any vessel built in a foreign country, whenever such vessel shall be wrecked in the United States, and shall be purchased and repaired by a citizen of the United States, if it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the repairs put upon such vessel are equal to three-fourths of the cost of the vessel when so repaired,' is hereby repealed. Approved February 22nd, 1906."

The effect of this is that in future all foreign built vessels wrecked on American coasts which may seek American register can only do so after Congress has legislated upon each separate case.

MINERALS, METALS AND MACHINERY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Enquiry under the Boiler Explosions Act.

A formal investigation was held in the Sheriff Court Room, Dundee, on the 15th March, into the circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler which occurred on the 26th January last. The owners and engineers were held to blame, and were each ordered to pay 10*l.* towards the costs of the investigation.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH—VICTORIA.

Mining Machinery Manufacture.

In a report to the Secretary of Mines for Victoria, Mr. F. R. Meekison, the Senior Inspector of Mines, states that the principal classes of mining machinery manufactured in Victoria are:—

High-pressure engines, compound condensing engines, triple-expansion condensing engines, portable engines, and all classes of boilers, electric engines, gas engines, oil engines, stationary crushing engines for batteries, portable batteries, gold saving appliances, puddling machines, steam pumping plants, electric pumping plants, dredging plants, sluicing plants, diamond drill boring plants, and steam winches.

The machinery has been found more suitable than that which was formerly imported, and companies get the exact design that will suit their requirements. The cost is not more than the imported.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Coal Trade in 1905.

The following statement of the quantity of coal imported into Singapore during the years 1904 and 1905 has been received from the Registrar of Imports and Exports at that port (Mr. A. Stuart):—

From	1904.	1905.
	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	53,014*	64,335
Japan	400,628	261,553
Bengal	108,358	172,374
Australia	36,274	66,720
Dutch Borneo	3,977	22,786
Labuan and Sarawak...	3,231	5,650
Tongkin...	4,613	4,944
Total	610,095	598,362

* Includes 10,045 tons of patent fuel.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

RUSSIA.

Polish Coal Production.

A communication has been received from the British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) giving statistics of the coal production in 1905 in the Dombrovski or Polish coal region, from which it appears that the total yield in 1905 was 213,984,102 pouds (3,423,745 tons), as against 281,793,337 pouds in 1904. The diminution of 24 per cent. is due to the complete suspension of work at the collieries during the general strikes, and to the curtailment of the output at the time of the railway strikes. The total consumption in 1905 amounted to 212,589,650 pouds, of which 88·56 per cent. was sold, and 11·44 per cent. used at the mines themselves. The Dombrovski Basin or Polish coal region is the second in importance of the coal centres of Russia.

GERMAN COLONIES.

Mining Ordinance.

The "Deutsches Kolonialblatt" (Berlin) publishes as a supplement the text of an Ordinance, dated 27th February, 1906, regulating mining and prospecting for minerals in the German African and South Sea Protectorates, excluding German South-West Africa. This may be seen at the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

FRANCE—MADAGASCAR.

Gold Mining Tax.

H.M. Consul at Antananarivo (Mr. T. P. Porter) reports that, by virtue of an *arrêté* published in the "Journal "Officiel de Madagascar," the basis for the computation of the fixed tax of 5 per cent. on gold extracted from mining claims in Madagascar has been established for the current year at the rate of three francs per gramme.

FRENCH GUIANA AND NEW CALEDONIA.

Modification of Mining Regulations.

The "Journal Officiel" of 13th March contains copy of a Decree modifying the mining regulations at present in force in French Guiana.

The "Journal" of 15th March, contains copy of a Decree modifying the mining regulations of New Caledonia.

Copies of the "Journal Officiel" may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

Minerals, Metals, and Machinery.

ROUMANIA.

Ordinance regulating Petroleum Concessions on State Lands.

H.M. Minister at Bucharest (Sir C. Greene, K.C.B.) has forwarded a French translation of an Ordinance published in the official "Moniteur," regulating the grant of concessions of State Petroleum lands in Roumania* together with a form of contract for such concessions. These documents may be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

PANAMA.

Pipe-line for the transmission of Petroleum across the Isthmus.

According to a despatch received from H.M. Consul at Panama (Mr. C. Mallet, C.M.G.) the Panama Government has granted a concession to the Union Oil Company of California to establish and work a pipe-line for the transmission of crude petroleum across the Isthmus of Panama. The period of the concession is until the completion of the canal, and 600*l.* is to be paid annually by the concessionnaires to the Panama Government in lieu of port duties.

The Company has also obtained a revocable licence from the Canal Commission for the construction and operation of the pipe-line through the territory of the Canal Zone. The conditions provide that it must be in operation before the 1st of August, 1906, and a monthly sum of 500 dollars must be paid for the support of the public schools of the Canal Zone. Furthermore, oil is to be furnished, at any point selected, to the Railway Company or the Canal Commission at the rate of ninety cents a barrel, so that the fuel can be obtained all along the line of the canal.

The Commission, states Mr. Mallet, has been paying approximately four dollars per ton for Pocahontas coal delivered at Colon, though the last contract was with the Fairmont Syndicate at 3·70 dollars per ton. This Fairmont coal at 3·70 dollars has been thoroughly tested, and found to be no cheaper, and, if anything, less desirable than Pocahontas at 4 dollars. If, as is claimed, three and one half to four barrels of fuel oil are equal to a ton of coal, it is probable that oil, with no added cost of handling, will eventually entirely supersede the use of coal in the Canal Zone.

Mr. Mallet adds that the Union Company have already acquired several steamers by purchase which are being converted into tank steamers, and the plan is to transport oil to the Pacific Terminus, pipe the same across the Isthmus to their steamers, for delivery on the Atlantic coast of the United States and elsewhere.

* See "Board of Trade Journal" of 25th January, page 174.

YARNS AND TEXTILES.

CHINA.

Piece-Goods and Yarn Trade in Hankow.

H.M. Consul-General at Hankow (Mr. E. D. H. Fraser, C.M.G.) alludes to the native dealers of his district being able to obtain from their fellows in Shanghai assorted parcels of piece-goods made up of small quantities of many varieties, and remarks that it would not pay foreign firms to compete in such transactions, which would involve a large stock on the spot, even if they could work on as small margins as the natives.

Indian yarn, he reports, is likewise in the hands of Chinese Shanghai traders, but Japanese yarn tends to fall to Hankow Japanese firms who import direct. The Wuchang mills are doing exceedingly well in Cantonese hands, and the Customs figures are expected to prove their competition to be serious.

MANCHURIA.

Proposed Depots for Sale of Russian Textiles.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia (Mr. H. Cooke) reports that a conference has been held at St. Petersburg, at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, on the subject of starting depôts of Russian goods in the chief towns of Northern Manchuria. Members of the Ministry and representatives of the mercantile community of Moscow were present. Mr. Cooke says the Russian goods referred to would be mostly textiles, and the depôts would possibly be on the same lines as that opened at Omsk in 1904 by Moscow textile manufacturers.*

The "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" suggests that this action arises from a report from Vladivostok of the appearance on the local market of a large quantity of Japanese textiles.

AGRICULTURE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Corn Prices.

The prices of British corn per quarter of 8 bushels, as received from the inspectors and officers of Excise in the week ended the 24th March, 1906, were as follows:—

Wheat	28*s.*	4*d.*
Barley	24*s.*	4*d.*
Oats	18*s.*	8*d.*

For further particulars see p. 624.

* See Mr. Cooke's report of Commercial Mission to Siberia, [Cd. 2,518], price 1*s.* 3*d.*, obtainable from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.

Agriculture.

UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Imports of Agricultural Produce.

A statement is published on p. 625, showing the quantities of the various descriptions of agricultural produce imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 24th March, 1906, as well as of the imports during the corresponding week of 1905.

Royal Commission on Horse Breeding.

The "London Gazette" of 27th March announces the appointment of a Royal Commission to consider and report on the regulations under which the money annually voted by Parliament for the purpose may best be expended in prizes, to be bestowed by the King at the chief Agricultural Shows in Great Britain, for the purpose of encouraging the breed and maintenance of a race of sound horses, or in such other method as the King may approve.

RUSSIA.

Bokhara Wool Export.

The official "Commercial and Industrial Gazette" (St. Petersburg) of the 15th/28th February contains a telegram from its Moscow correspondent, stating that the increasing export abroad of late, mostly to England and America, of wool from Bokhara is causing extreme alarm to cloth dealers of the Moscow region. Most of them consider that prohibitive duties should be imposed against this export, and thus Bokhara wool might again make its appearance at Nijni Fair, and the prices for Russian steppe wool be reduced. In this sense wool dealers have recently approached the Moscow Bourse Committee.

PORTUGAL.

Cotton Cultivation in Portuguese Colonies.

The "Diario do Governo" of 21st March contains a Royal Decree the object of which is to promote the cultivation of cotton in Portuguese Colonial possessions.

The Decree lays down conditions on which concessions of land for this purpose may be granted. It exempts cotton from export duties in the Portuguese Colonies, and exempts, under certain conditions, colonial cotton from import duties in Portugal.

The Government is authorised to establish experimental stations for cotton cultivation.

CHINA.

Tobacco Cultivation in Huang-Kang.

H.M. Consul General at Hankow (Mr. E. D. H. Fraser, C.M.G.), reports that arrangements have been made by the Hupei Government for the starting of an experimental tobacco curing establishment in Huang-Kang district, where excellent native leaf is grown. Curing according to foreign methods will at first be carried out, but if necessary American seed will be introduced for the improvement of the cultivation.

MISCELLANEOUS.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Cotton Statistics.

The number of bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom during the week ended the 22nd March, 1906, was 113,634 (including 15 bales British West African), and the number imported during the twelve weeks ended the 22nd March was 1,322,980 (including 1,159 bales British West Indian and 282 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 22nd March, 1906, 6,565 bales, and for the twelve weeks, 112,011.

For further details see p. 624.

FRANCE.

Alcohol Tax.

The "Journal Officiel" of 13th March publishes a Decree fixing the rate of the tax on the manufacture of industrial alcohol in France for the year 1907 at 1 fr. 72 c. per hectolitre of pure alcohol.

SPAIN.

Appointment of Permanent Commission of Sea Fisheries.

The "Gaceta de Madrid" of 18th March, contains copy of a Decree appointing a permanent Commission of Sea Fisheries, charged with carrying out scientific investigations on the coast of Spain, the Balearic and the Canary Isles, with a view to developing and systematising the fishing industry.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

New System of Wireless Telephony.

H.M. Consul at Trieste (Mr. J. B. Spence) reports that two residents in that city have invented a new system of wireless telephony. On the 2nd March experiments were conducted in Trieste in the presence of the Governor, Mayor, and other leading local authorities. The experiments proved entirely successful.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Trade of Galveston.

H.M. Consul at Galveston (Mr. H. D. Nugent) reports that the foreign trade of Galveston during the year 1905, was the largest ever recorded at the port. There was a substantial increase in both imports and exports, the former being valued at 1,176,619*l.* in 1905, as compared with 591,405*l.* in 1904, and the latter at 29,349,301*l.* in 1905 and 25,212,510*l.* in 1904. As regards foreign imports, cement and rails were the largest items from Europe, but there were also imported in considerable quantities champagne

Miscellaneous.

and other wines and liquors, toys, preserved fruits and vegetables, preserved fish, crockery and glass. In regard to values of exports in 1905, Galveston attained the second place in the United States, being surpassed only by New York.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—CALIFORNIA.

Warning as to a Dangerous Prospectus.

A communication from a trustworthy source has reached the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade as to a dangerous prospectus issued by a firm in San Francisco, relative to certain property which is for sale in the State of California. Further information will be given orally to persons interested by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at the discretion of the Principal.

CHINA.

Population of Shanghai (Native and Foreign).

H.M. Minister in China (Sir E. Satow, G.C.M.G.) has forwarded a report on the census of the population of Shanghai taken in October last, from which have been extracted the following comparative figures showing the number of the foreign residents in Shanghai (exclusive of the French settlement), together with the number of the Chinese population :—

	1900.	1905.
	Number.	Number.
British	2,691	3,713
Japanese	736	2,157
Portuguese	978	1,329
American	562	991
German	525	785
Other foreign	1,282	2,522
Total foreign	6,774	11,497
Native	345,276	452,716

Active Trade in Hides and Skins and Wood Oil.

H.M. Consul-General at Hankow (Mr. E. D. H. Fraser, C.M.G.) reports that the fur and skin trade in his district seems to be benefiting by the presence of a railway, and a considerable business is being done in them as in goat skins, for which prices have risen 20 to 25 per cent. In wood oil, a rise in the New York market has caused a large business at advanced prices, while hides, on account of better trade in the leather markets, are selling freely at fully 10 per cent. above last season's prices. According to the native press the Japanese are about to start a tannery in Hankow. In Wuchang so many of them have street stalls and peddle wares that special orders for their protection have been given to the native police.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Cotton Returns.

Return of the **Number** of **Bales** of **Cotton Imported** and **Exported** at the **Various Ports** of the **United Kingdom** during the Week and 12 Weeks ended 22nd March, 1906 :—

—	Week ended 22nd March, 1906.	12 Weeks ended 22nd March, 1906.	Week ended 22nd March, 1906.	12 Weeks ended 22nd March, 1906.
	Imports. (Bales.)		Exports. (Bales.)	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	76,984	982,241	2,057	51,085
Brazilian	8,574	89,640	200	4,390
East Indian	3,104	41,480	725	13,062
Egyptian	23,631	193,628	3,282	41,714
Miscellaneous	1,341*	15 991†	301	1,760
Total	113,634	1,322,980	6,565	112,011

* Including 15 bales British West African.
† „ 1,159 bales British West Indian and 282 bales British West African.

Corn Prices.

Statement showing the **Average Price** of **British Corn,** per quarter of 8 bushels, Imperial Measure,* as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise in the week ended 24th March, 1906, and corresponding weeks of the seven previous years pursuant to the Corn Returns Act, 1882.

—	Average Price.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ended 24th March, 1906	28	4	24	4	18	8
Corresponding week in—						
1899	24	11	26	2	16	11
1900	25	10	24	11	17	2
1901	26	0	24	9	18	0
1902	27	2	27	2	20	7
1903	25	2	22	4	17	0
1904	28	2	22	8	16	7
1905	30	9	25	2	17	0

* Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, provides that where returns of purchases of British Corn are made to the local inspector of Corn Returns in any other measure than the Imperial bushel or by weight or by a weighed measure that officer shall convert such returns into the Imperial bushel, and in the case of weight or weighed measure the conversion is to be made at the rate of sixty Imperial pounds for every bushel of wheat, fifty Imperial pounds for every bushel of barley, and thirty-nine Imperial pounds for every bushel of oats.

Imports of Agricultural Produce into the United Kingdom.

Account showing the Quantities of certain kinds of **Agricultural Produce** imported into the **United Kingdom** in the week ended 24th March, 1906, together with the quantities imported in the corresponding week of the previous year.

		Week ended 24th Mar., 1906.	*Corresponding Week in 1905.*
Animals, living :—			
Oxen, bulls, cows, and calves	Number.	11,621	*12,408*
Sheep and lambs	"	3,725	*5,510*
Swine	"	—	—
Horses	"	478	*205*
Fresh Meat :—			
Beef	Cwts.	102,037	*85,733*
Mutton	"	76,495	*101,218*
Pork	"	11,081	*10,618*
Salted or preserved meat :—			
Bacon	Cwts.	112,939	*108,877*
Beef	"	3,774	*1,360*
Hams	"	17,356	*26,095*
Pork	"	4,552	*3,312*
Meat, unenumerated, salted or fresh ...	"	16,970	*17,539*
Meat, preserved otherwise than by salting...	"	11,314	*17,313*
Dairy produce and substitutes :—			
Butter	Cwts.	99,823	*105,276*
Margarine	"	21,115	*24,832*
Cheese	"	35,712	*24,734*
Milk, fresh, in cans or drums	"	—	—
" cream	"	13	*91*
" condensed	"	21,343	*20,293*
" preserved, other kinds...	"	53	*406*
Eggs	Grt. Hundr.	440,348	*318,356*
Poultry	Value £	16,262	*33,166*
Game	"	4,900	*3,016*
Rabbits, dead (not tinned)	Cwts.	1,142	*5,717*
Lard	"	45,349	*38,595*
Corn, grain, meal, and flour :—			
Wheat	Cwts.	1,340,000	*2,514,100*
Wheat meal and flour	"	291,000	*242,400*
Barley	"	294,300	*510,300*
Oats	"	164,300	*334,800*
Peas	"	10,040	*46,170*
Beans	"	10,870	*16,950*
Maize or Indian corn	"	1,218,100	*584,200*
Fruit, raw :—			
Apples	Cwts.	24,031	*112,770*
Apricots and peaches	"	16	*21*
Bananas	Bunches.	73,819	*51,589*
Cherries	Cwts.	—	—
Currants...	"	—	—
Gooseberries	"	—	—
Grapes	"	1,005	*508*
Lemons	"	17,234	*6,018*
Oranges	"	167,079	*194,096*
Pears	"	665	*176*
Plums	"	75	*127*
Strawberries	"	—	—
Unenumerated	"	560	*51*
Hay...	Tons.	2,051	*953*
Straw	"	1,714	*1,235*
Moss Litter	"	1,899	*2,600*
Hops	Cwts.	1,969	*690*
Locust Beans	"	38,959	*12,338*
Vegetables, raw :—			
Onions	Bushels.	87,471	*62,499*
Potatoes	Cwts.	14,759	*23,720*
Tomatoes	"	33,455	*24,908*
Unenumerated	Value £	9,867	*13,695*
Vegetables, dried	Cwts.	583	*640*
Preserved by canning...	"	5,270	*10,374*

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

TRADE RETURNS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for the month of February, 1906, have been published. The accounts, which are issued on the 7th or 8th of each month, may be purchased at a cost, in the present instance, of 1*s.* 2*d.* per copy, either directly or through any bookseller, from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; or Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Attention is further called to the fact that the "Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom with Foreign Countries and British Possessions" for the year 1904, in two volumes, may be purchased at a cost of 7*s.* 7*d.* for the first and 4*s.* 3*d.* for the second volume, at any of the addresses enumerated above. This publication, which contains much more detailed and exhaustive information than can be given in the Monthly Accounts, gives Abstract Tables for the years 1900–1904, and detailed statements of imports and exports of each article (from and to each country) in the first volume, and in the second volume details as to customs duties, trade in coin and bullion, transhipments, and articles in bond, and particulars of the trade of the United Kingdom with each foreign country.

THE BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE.

The "Board of Trade Labour Gazette"* is published by the Board of Trade about the 16th of each month. The following are among the more important articles which will appear in the March issue:—State of the Labour Market in February; Trade Unions 1902-1904; Report of the Royal Commission on Trade Disputes and Trade Combinations; Report of Departmental Committee on Vagrancy; Seasonal Fluctuations in the Clothing Trades; and Relief of the Unemployed.

OTHER GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom, 1904. *Supplement to Volumes I. and II.* [*Cd.* 2,668.] *Price* 5*s.* 10*d.*

This return contains abstract and detailed tables showing the *countries of consignment* of imports and *countries of ultimate destination* of exports. In Volumes I. and II. of the "Annual Statement of Trade," imports are generally classified as received from the *countries whence they were shipped direct to the United Kingdom*, and exports to countries possessing no seaboard are credited to the *country in which the port of discharge is situated.* The present volume also contains statements of the consignments from each country retained for consumption in the United Kingdom, or the "special" imports from each country into the United Kingdom.

* It can be purchased through any newsagent, price, 1d.

Government Publications.

LIST OF FOREIGN OFFICE REPORTS.

THE following Reports of H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers, which have been issued in the **Annual** and **Miscellaneous** Series since 1st January, 1906, may be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.

The titles of the Miscellaneous Series are printed in italics.

No.	Place.	Price
	EUROPE—	
	Belgium:	
3532	Antwerp, Shipping and Navigation 1905	7*d.*
	Denmark:	
3525	Denmark (Supplementary) 1904	1*d.*
	France:	
3528	Indo-China 1903-4	7*d.*
3534	Marseilles 1905	1*d.*
644	*French Octroi System* ...	*1½d.*
	German Empire:	
3526	Bavaria... ... 1904 and part of 1905	1*d.*
3523	German Trade with India...	1*d.*
645	*Agriculture in Germany* ...	*1½d.*
	Italy:	
3530	South Italy 1905	1½*d.*
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	Portugal;	
3537	Oporto 1905	1*d.*
	Servia:	
3529	Servia 1904	1½*d.*
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3533	Constantinople ... 1905	2*d.*
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	Mexico:	
3531	Mexican Budget ... 1905-6	½*d.*
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3536	Finances 1904-5	1½*d.*
643	*Coal Industry of the United States in 1904*	*3d.*
	AMERICA, SOUTH—	
	Brazil:	
3521	Santos 1902-4	2*d.*
	WEST INDIES—	
3522	Cuba (Supplementary) 1904	2*d.*

Treaty Series.

The following number of the Treaty Series issued since the 1st January, 1906, may also be obtained from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

No.	———	Price.
	EUROPE— **France:**	
1	Agreement between the United Kingdom and France additional to the Money Order Convention of December 8, 1882	½*d.*
2	Convention between the United Kingdom and France respecting telegraphic communication between Mauritius and Réunion	½*d.*

COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to H.M. Colonial Possessions issued since 1st January, 1905, may be purchased from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Fetter Lane, E.C.:—

Annual.

No.	Place.	Price.
481	Ceylon	3½*d.*

THE COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE BRANCH OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade (No. 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.) is intended to be a centre at which information on all subjects of commercial interest shall be collected and focussed in a form convenient for reference, and at which, so far as the interests of British trade permit, replies shall be given to enquiries by traders on commercial matters.

On application being made to it either personally or by letter, the Branch supplies, so far as is possible, information with regard to the following subjects, viz.: Commercial Statistics; Matters relating to Foreign and Colonial Tariffs and Customs Regulations; Lists of firms abroad engaged in particular lines of business in different localities; Foreign and Colonial Contracts open to Tender. Sources of Supply, Prices, &c., of Trade Products; Forms of Certificates of Origin; Regulations concerning Commercial Travellers, &c., &c. There is a Sample Room at the offices of the Branch, where, in addition to samples illustrative of reports of H.M. Consuls or of the Correspondents or Special Commissioners of the Board of Trade, specimens of special interest that may be received from the Imperial Institute, India, or the Colonies, &c., are exhibited from time to time.

The Governments of India, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, and Queensland, also the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, have established, in proximity to the Commercial Intelligence Branch, at 73 Basinghall Street, special offices for dealing with trade matters (see next page).

The "Board of Trade Journal" is the principal medium through which intelligence collected by the Commercial Intelligence Branch, and intended for general information, is conveyed to the public. The "Journal" is issued weekly at the price of 1*d*. All applications respecting subscription, or the purchase of single copies, should be addressed in London to Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; in Edinburgh to Messrs. Oliver & Boyd; and in Dublin to Edward Ponsonby, 116, Grafton Street. Copies may also be obtained from Messrs. G. Street & Co., Ltd., 30, Cornhill, E.C.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL TRADE ENQUIRY OFFICES.

India.—The India Trade Enquiry Office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., has been established for the purpose of supplying the general public with all available information as to the commercial products, manufactures and trades of British India.

The office is under the superintendence of an India Office official, who is in daily attendance to answer personal or written enquiries.

The current publications of the Government of India dealing with Indian Trade statistics, tariff charges, railways, economic products, &c., are kept in the office, and can be consulted free: the various Indian Directories are also filed.

Canada.—The Canadian Government have secured premises at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where an office has been opened under the designation of "Canadian Government City Trade Branch," for the convenience of the commercial community.

In due course it is intended to equip and maintain a display room, illustrating the products, resources and manufactures of the Dominion. In the meantime, a Canadian representative attends daily to deal with enquiries and applications in connection with Canadian import and export trade, and to supply information about Canadian matters generally. Personal appointments can be arranged when desired.

Cape of Good Hope.—The Government of the Cape of Good Hope have opened offices at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., for the purpose of a Commercial Agency for that Colony, under the direction of the Agent-General.

The Commercial Agent in charge of these offices deals with, and supplies free, information on trade subjects connected with the Colony, such as commercial products, industries, trade, tariff regulations, commercial statistics, railway rates, prospects for emigration, &c., &c.

Queensland.—For the convenience of the commercial community in the City of London, the Agent-General for Queensland has opened a branch office at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., where a representative attends daily to give information to enquirers regarding trade, mining, and all other matters in connection with Queensland.

A Reading Room will also be provided in which maps, directories, statutes, Government reports, and other publications of the State can be seen.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—A Trade Enquiry Office has been opened at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C., by the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, on the lines of the agency established at the same address by the Government of Cape Colony, but under the general direction of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Superintendent in charge of the Office deals with, and supplies free, information in regard to the products and resources of the two Colonies, the opportunities they present to the settler, their railway facilities, the regulations of all kinds in force in them affecting trade, &c., &c.

March, 1906.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Imperial Institute at South Kensington was transferred by Act of Parliament to the control of the Board of Trade on the 1st January, 1903. The work formerly carried on by the Commercial Intelligence Office of the Institute is now conducted by the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

The Imperial Institute is chiefly occupied with the systematic investigation and illustration of the principal resources of India and the Colonies. It includes :—

1. The Galleries, containing collections of economic products, &c., illustrative of the natural and commercial resources of British Possessions. These are open free to the public daily (except on Sundays) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special arrangements may be made for the visits of schools and other educational institutions. Information concerning India and the Colonies, their products, industries, prospects for emigration, &c., may be obtained on verbal application at the Central stand in the Galleries, or applications may be addressed in writing to the Director of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W. Publications furnishing information relating to the commerce, agriculture, mining and other industries of India and the Colonies, as well as those relating to emigration, may also be obtained on application at the Central stand. From time to time samples and specimens of raw and manufactured products will be shown in the sample room attached to the offices of the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.

2. The Scientific and Technical Department with extensive laboratories specially equipped for the purpose of investigating problems connected with tropical agriculture and development. In this Department new or little known natural products from India and the Colonies, and commercial products from new sources, received through the Government of the countries concerned, are examined with a view to their valuation and utilisation. The expert staff of the Department is also engaged in the collection of information from all sources on these and similar subjects.

3. The Library and Reading Rooms, containing a large collection of Indian and Colonial works of reference, which are regularly supplied with the principal official publications of India and the Colonies, and with many of the principal newspapers, periodicals and maps of the United Kingdom, India, and the Colonies.

4. Conference and Meeting Rooms which are available under certain conditions for the purpose of meetings, lectures, &c., on subjects of importance to India and the Colonies.

5. The "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute." This publication, which is now issued quarterly, includes reports on investigations conducted at the Imperial Institute, and also special articles relating to recent developments in tropical agriculture and in the utilisation of raw materials. The "Bulletin" may be obtained at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, or from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., price one shilling per number.

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THE Board of Trade Journal

Edited by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

MARCH 29, 1906.

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* *For list of principal publications of Board of Trade see p.* v. *of Advertisements.*

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Board of Trade Journal.

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CONTRACTS.

Borough of Loughborough.
Waterworks Department.
Shepshed Water Supply.
To Waterworks Contractors.

The Water Committee of the Loughborough Corporation are prepared to receive tenders for the execution of the works required in providing, carting and laying about 1,300 yards of 6-in., 2,300 yards of 4-in., and 3,500 yards of 3-in. Cast-Iron Mains; providing and fixing Valves and other fittings; together with building Valve and other Chambers, and other works, in connection with the supply of water to Shepshed.

The drawings may be inspected at the offices of the Engineer, Mr. A. H. Walker, ASSOC M.INST.C.E., Town Hall, Loughborough, and conditions of contract, specification, quantities. and form of tender obtained from him upon payment of 2 guineas, which will be returned upon the receipt of a bona fide tender, and of the conditions, specification and priced quantities.

Sealed tenders, upon the form supplied, addressed to the Chairman of the Water Committee, Town Hall, Loughborough, are to be delivered not later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, the 10th day of April next, endorsed "Tender for Shepshed Mains."

ALBERT H. WALKER, ASS.M.I.C.E.,
Waterworks Engineer.

Town Hall, Loughborough,
March 21, 1906.

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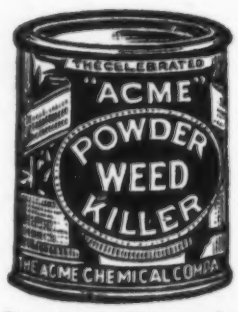

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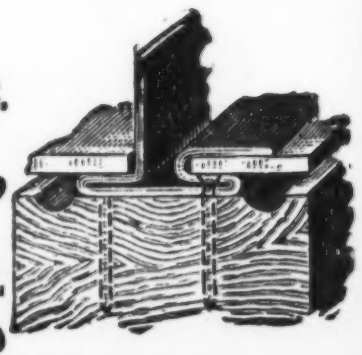

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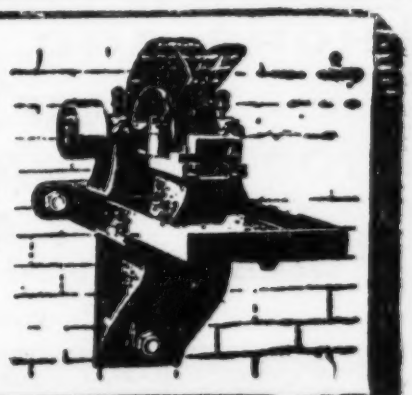

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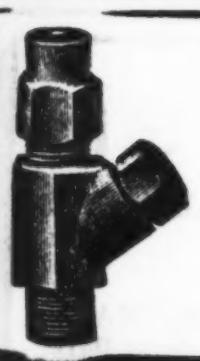

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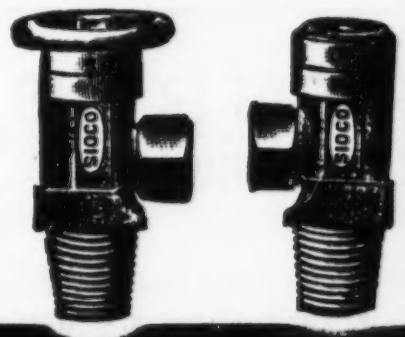

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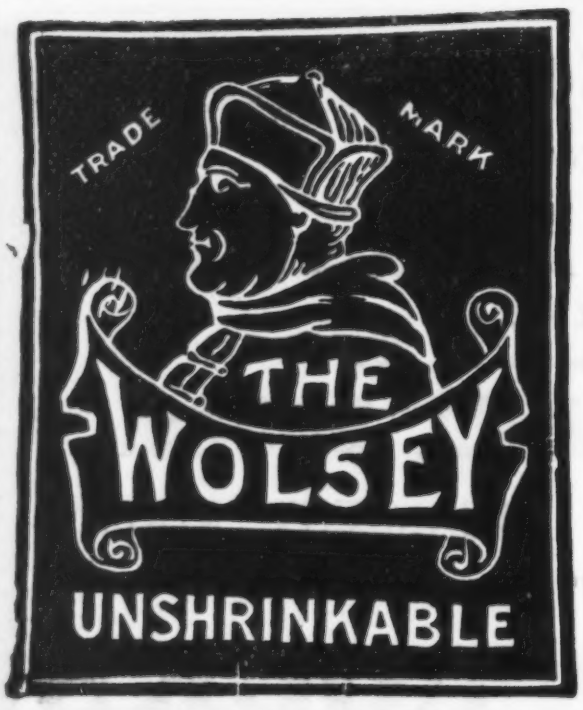

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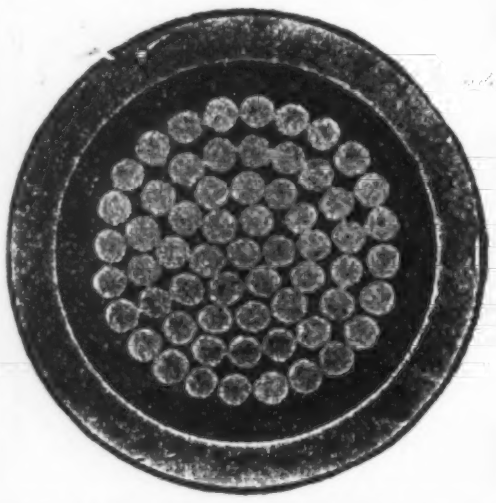

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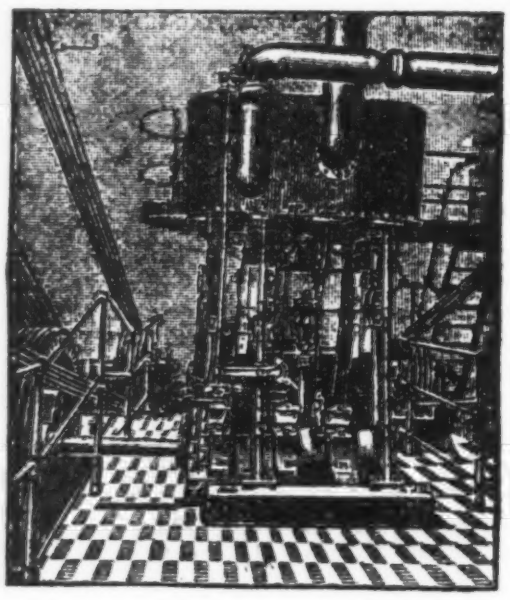

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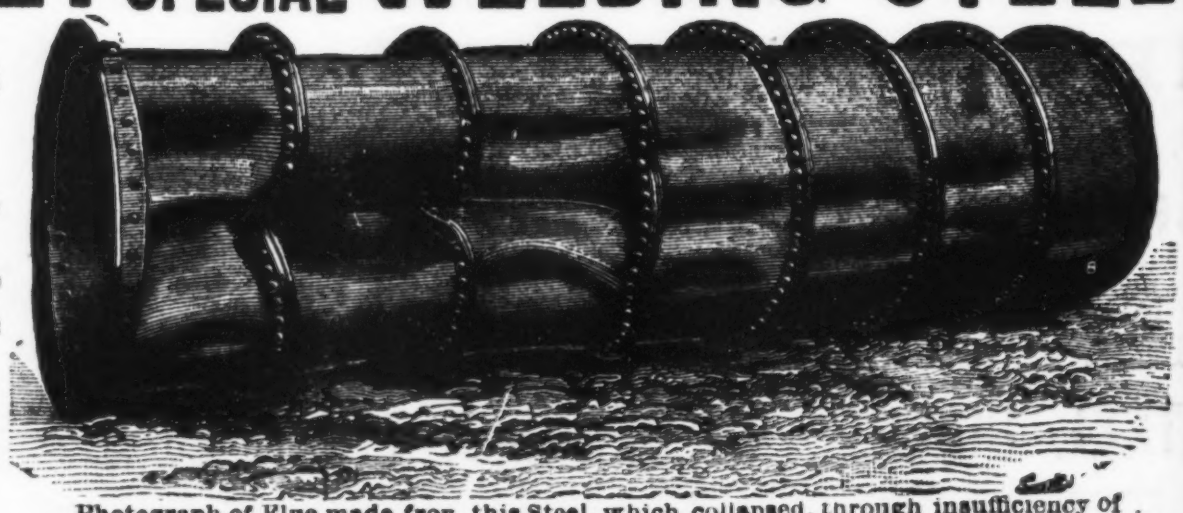

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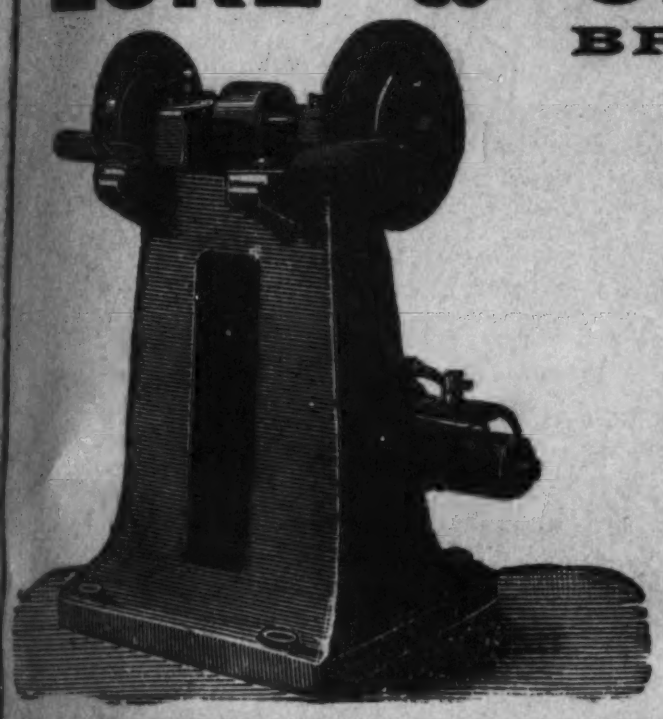

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